

Mouth of the River

Issue 1 - October 11th - Oyster River High School - 55 Coe Drive - Durham, NH - 03824



We Make the News.

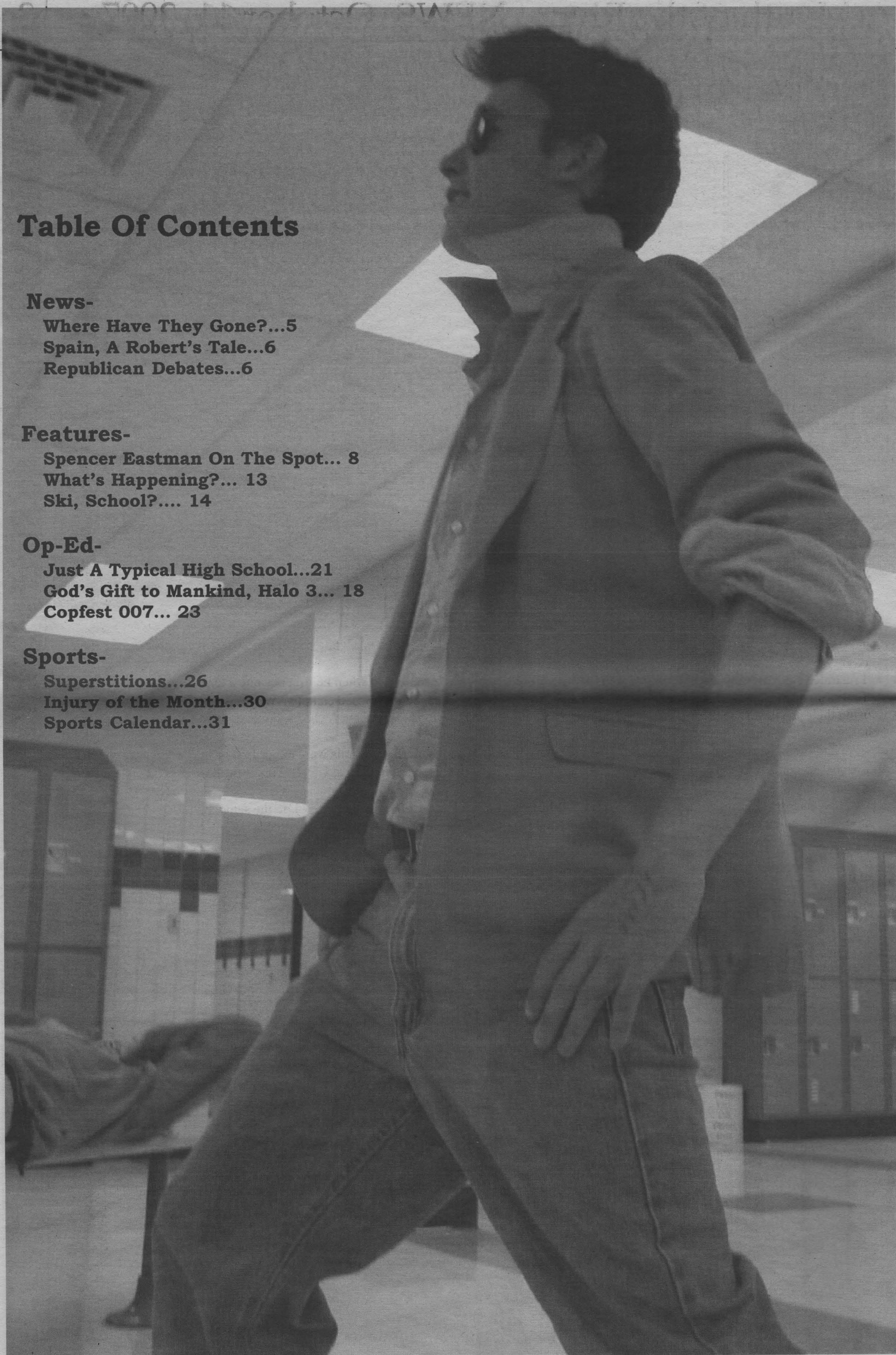


Table Of Contents

News-

- Where Have They Gone?...5
- Spain, A Robert's Tale...6
- Republican Debates...6

Features-

- Spencer Eastman On The Spot... 8
- What's Happening?... 13
- Ski, School?... 14

Op-Ed-

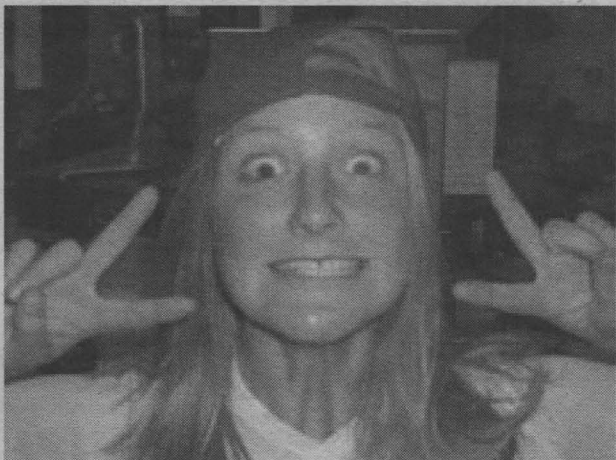
- Just A Typical High School...21
- God's Gift to Mankind, Halo 3... 18
- Copfest 007... 23

Sports-

- Superstitions...26
- Injury of the Month...30
- Sports Calendar...31

WE THE SENIORS

By Alina Harris



If I had a dollar for every time someone asked me "So, how does it feel to be a SEEENIOR now?" Well; I wouldn't be a millionaire, but certainly could pay some bills. It's almost like asking someone on their birthday, "Do you feel different now that you're a year older?" Most of the time, probably not; until you're eighteen when legally, simultaneously a handful of things change.

Interestingly enough, for the majority of seniors, there is an overlap between turning eighteen and enjoying their senior year of high school. This can, and has been, brought up while addressing the issue of senior benefits.

Eighteen-year-old senior Jared Shaheen states "I think we should be allowed to leave school grounds if we are eighteen, and if not; have the option of our parents signing a permission slip that permits us to leave campus during a free time of the day."

Exeter High School seniors are fortunate enough to already have Shaheen's fantasy. Chris Wells, a junior of EHS reveals that any senior, depending on his or her schedule, is permitted to leave school during their free time. Surprised, Wells asks "You're not allowed to?"

Frustrated students may ask, was our campus always closed? Lou Mroz states that when he first became a teacher at ORHS in 1980 there was an open campus, however between 1980 and 1985 the policy changed to a closed campus. Why? Because students were abusing their privileges. (Surprise!) Has the administration tightened down on the students' whereabouts in the past few years? Kiley Johns, ORHS graduate of 2000 and current mathematics teacher confirms Mroz.

"We had the same thing as now; you could come in early or leave late if your free periods were either first or last." Johns also mentioned that students were permitted to leave school and come back in order to take classes at UNH. This is the case for Hallie Gremlitz this year.

"I leave anatomy 15 minutes early on Tuesday at 11:00 and I get back at 12:45. On Thursdays I do the same, but don't have to miss anatomy." Gremlitz enjoys this privileged opportunity to break up her day and "get out of this hell hole."

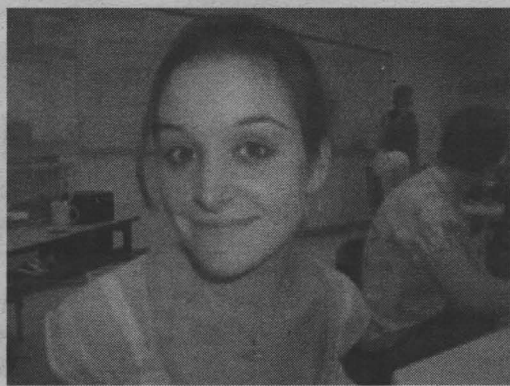
Gremlitz is able to take a UNH class due to her school parking benefits. But can parking spots even be considered as an exclusive senior privilege? If juniors have the chance to win the freedom of being able to park at the school too, this benefit is no longer subject to seniors solely. What are some benefits that exclude the other three classes? The seniors are allowed to chill in the senior core during their free periods and get to proudly sit at the grand senior table in the cafeteria. Did you also know, that soon (thanks to Derrick Kotlus) there will be seniors-only JP subs coming to Oyster River? With age and ranking within the school, the seniors also get the ease of knowing that they're the top of the food chain.

What do underclassmen think of the seniors? Marissa Kang, an Oyster River sophomore, shares that "some seniors talk down on us but most of them are chill." Word to the wise? Senior Lily Burtis states "Show some respect to your elders."



Robert Fletcher's middle name is Mia

WHAT DO TEACHERS DO OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?



By Caylee Doyle

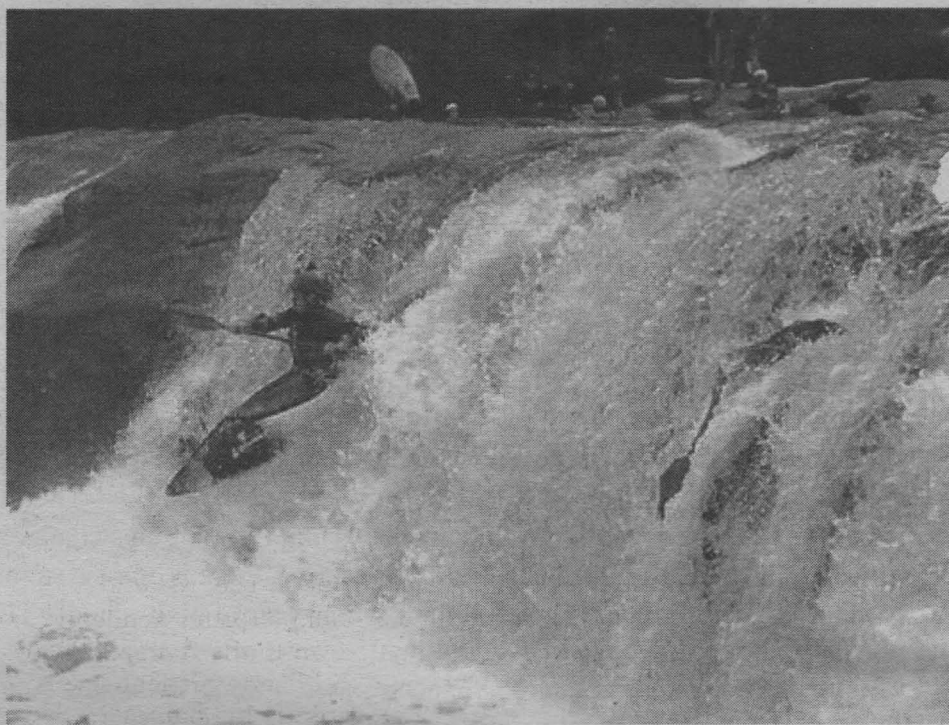
"Strike 3, yerrrrr out!" yells Oyster River High School Principal Laura Rogers, as the intense game of wiffle ball continues on. Gathering with friends once a month and finding interesting activities to do is Rogers' idea of having a good time.

Do you ever wonder what teachers really do outside of school? Or, do they really stay at the school all night in one of the janitor's closets and correct tests and quizzes? At some point, we all wonder what interesting activities teachers may be doing on a long weekend when there isn't any school. Kayaking, biking, snow shoeing, being with friends, and gardening are a few of the activities teachers participate in when school isn't in session.

"I love white water kayaking and just being outside in general," said Kim Seamon, one of Oyster River's new guidance counselors. "My favorite place to white water kayak is the Ottawa river in Canada. Sometimes I kayak in the winter when there's still snow on the sidings. It's an automatic ice cream freeze," says Seamon.

Being out and active is a popular choice for teachers,

although there are a few exceptions. For example, Rogers really likes playing her computer games such as Diablo 3, world of war craft and halo. "No I was not standing in line for halo 3. I don't play for x-box or whatever it is, I only play on PC," said Rogers who is now a recovering addict for video games.



Guidance Counselor Kim Seamon riding the rapids.
Are those Class 4 rapids?

MR. HAWLEY'S WEDDING

By Nicole Reynolds

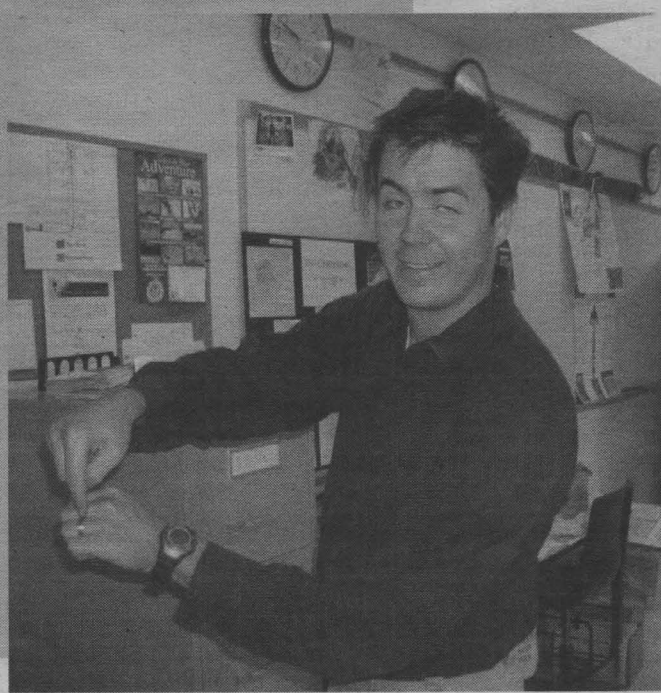
Imagine this. It's your wedding day and you're on Lake George, New York. Friends and family gather on a pier to enjoy the big day with you. As they gather, they see you and your wife sailing over to the pier on a boat. Your wife's boat was especially handmade by you and your father-in-law. Just as the ceremony is ending, the rain clears and a rainbow appears in the sky. This may not be how your wedding day will go, but it's certainly how Dave Hawley's happened.

On September 15, 2007, one of Oyster River's favorite social studies teachers, Dave Hawley, got married. Family and friends, including a few Oyster River High School teachers, gathered on Lake George, New York, to celebrate the event.

Good friend, Brian Zottoli, was one of many who attended and actually officiated the wedding.

Of course, as most people should, Hawley enjoyed himself very much on his wedding day. "It was fabulous; it was the best day of my life. It was stunning, people were moved to tears," commented Hawley, "My wife was beautiful. It was incredible. The wedding was in New York because it's where we spend our summers. Meg grew up on the lake."

So it seems that Mr. Hawley and his new wife had their own fairytale wedding, complete with rainbows and all. I'm sure all of us students at Oyster River wish them the best of luck!



Max Harris can unicycle and throw a frisbee with both of his feet....at the same time

Even some of the staff members who have tougher and more exciting jobs have a softer side to them than people think.

"I really like spending time with my wonderful daughter and working on motorcycles," said Officer Ed Levesque, who is a police officer for Durham, and resource officer for Oyster River.

Teachers such as Mr. Brewer like leaving the country once in a while. "I like to travel around Europe when I get the chance, I really enjoy traveling," commented Brewer.

Students at Oyster River are really into sports, along with a lot of the teachers.

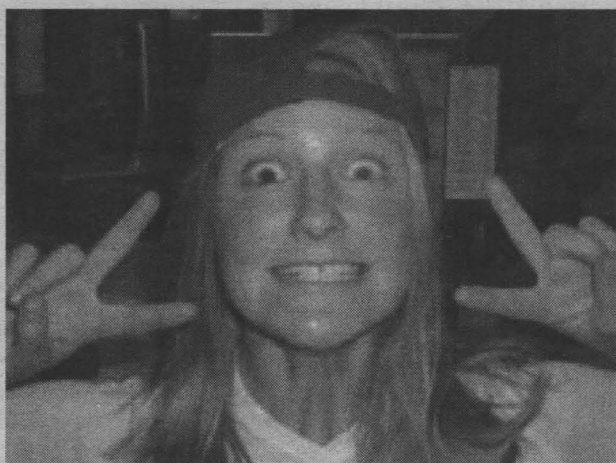
"I work at the physical therapy clinic and I really enjoy playing basketball and football," said Mike Feld, who is the Oyster River High School athletic trainer and a part time substitute.

"It's not really that hard being a sub. I sometimes get annoyed with the kids but over all I like it," says Feld.

From white water kayaking to playing computer games, teachers do a wide variety of activities for fun. So now that you have a feel for what teachers do outside of school, does the thought of teachers sleeping in their classrooms at night still come to mind?

If every household reuses a paper grocery bag for one shopping trip, 600,000 trees would be saved. BRING YOUR OWN BAG!

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?



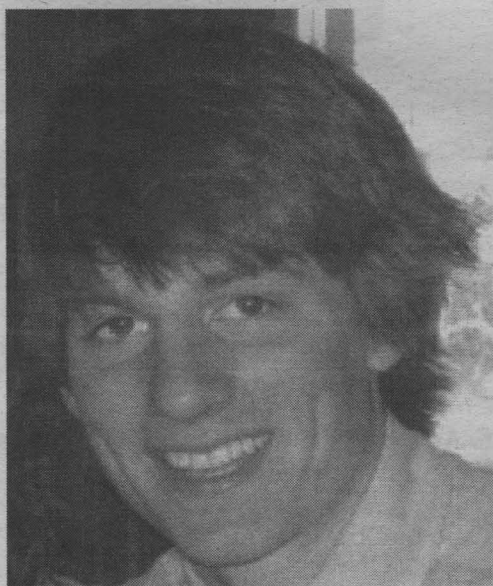
By Alina Harris

Before you know it, June 13th rolls around the corner and you're staring at the reflection in the mirror of a grown person wearing a cap and gown. You're a little bit nervous, but mostly excited. It's taken you so long to get here; you couldn't have done it alone. But what about the classmates who won't be standing by our sides, who were so dear to us and helped us along the way? Where have they gone? What are they doing?....

George Nardi still lives in his lavish home in Lee, NH and attends Phillips Exeter Academy. He has grown to the fantastic height of 5'11" and his foot size is 10 ½. Currently his hair is 2 inches long. For a cool hobby, George gets to DJ the radio station 90.5fm and actually now does the program directing. He gets paid to "proctor" students four hours a week. Tune into his station from 7-10pm. to hear the student shows. For a foreign language, George takes Chinese which allows him to speak very well and realistically in rapid Chinese. It's sweet! Nardi plays football in the positions of cornerback and wide receiver, and he thinks that his team is pretty good. The picture of him is his school photo.



Cory Ransom now has a house in Rye which he occupies part-time with his father and brother. Where is he the rest of the time? Boarding in the dorms at Carrabassett Valley Academy, a Skiing school that is "in the middle of nowhere Maine," according to Ransom. Giant slalom is his forte. Currently, his hair is approximately 4 ½ inches, he weighs 132 pounds and stands 5'9" tall. (Who knew that our Cory could out-grow us?) Ransom has a very busy schedule, considering that his school day goes from 7:30 am to 6:00pm. His fall sport is soccer, and if he ever has time he likes to meet up



with fellow bobcats at the beach to surf.

Kelsey Connolly is keepin' it real just a couple miles a way in Dover High School. He actually is taking Journalism over there as well! : He's grown to be 6'1" and has the enormous foot size of 15. As of now, his hairstyle is a buzzcut and still maintains his ability of being dead sexy. One of the ways that he does it is by working on his manly muscles in the gym everyday. He continues to play Dover soccer and basketball. He works for Red Alert (Skate Company) painting custom shoes.

Alec is in love with text wrap and it's killing Chelsea softly.

Erin Heffelfinger has been living in North Carolina. She



attends Chapel Hill High School, which is the best public high school in North Carolina. About 1600 students attend. "It's hella hard and competitive. Pretty much you can have a 4.0 weighted GPA and not be in the top half of the graduating class...it's ridiculous." She has been playing volley ball year-round (and hopes to win states) as well as running track. She's thinking to continue both at the college level. Her father still works at Duke which was the reason that she moved in the first place. Erin is in two

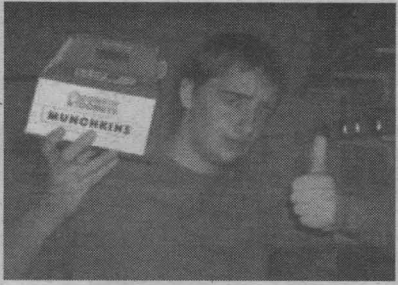
choruses at school ("which is pretty baller") and in acappella group. Erin's hair is brown, past her shoulders, and "curly like whoa." Her shoe size is 10ish and she stands 5'7" tall. Erin reports that it's waaay too hot in North Carolina (95 degrees) and that she "miss[es] the snow and sick skiing. YOU GUYS TAKE IT FOR GRANTED!!! Be happy you live somewhere with snow." About ¼ of her school is black and she loves the diversity. Everyone says "y'all" although she refuses to say it still, because "it's the most disgusting word ever." She has, however, gotten used to saying "yes ma'am" and "yes sir" to people such as teachers and coaches.

Kyleigh Labranche now is living back in Kijabe, Kenya.



She is once again attending Rift Valley Academy. She lives with her parents and little sister Kami. Her hair is medium length, layered, and dirty blonde. She looks forward to celebrating her 18th birthday by rafting the Nile and bungee jumping over it. In February she will also be hiking Mt. Kilimanjarol Her favorite past-time in Kenya is to "go dirt biking into the Rift Valley with her friends and chase gazelles, zebras, and giraffes." RVA goes by term systems.

They have school for 3 months and then get one off. "Over vacation we get pretty bored, so we toilet paper the administrations' houses because they can't bust us because it's not in school." What does Kyleigh miss about New Hampshire? The icecream sandwiches with the M&Ms and chocolate milk at lunch. "The milk is like straight from the cow! Gross." She especially misses the seasons. "When you're in Africa it doesn't really change. It goes from hott HOTT to cold rainy foggy to hott hott..." What is she happy to leave behind? "I don't really miss always being busy. Here I have a lot of time to relax and just chill. In the states I felt like I was constantly busy."



by Ryan Daly

News Department

REPUBLICAN DEBATES

The crowd cheered and booed as Ron Paul criticized other Republicans for wanting to stay in Iraq. "The same people who say we should stay in are the ones that said we should go in, in the first place!"

Durham hosted the Republican debates on September 4th. They were attended by nearly all the major candidates. Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain, Tom Tancredo, Mike Huckabee, Sam Brownback, Duncan Hunter, and Ron Paul were present during the debate. The only major candidate that was not present was Fred Thompson, who was scheduled to be a guest on the Tonight Show, and was expected to make his candidacy official.

The debate began with remarks from all candidates about Fred Thompson's absence. "If Fred Thompson wants to wait until January or February that's fine by me," joked former Massachusetts Governor, Mitt Romney. The debate continued to go on as each candidate was given questions to answer.

Representative Ron Paul of Texas had the most radical ideas out of all the candidates. As a former libertarian, Ron Paul declared that if he were president he would attempt to get rid of the FBI, CIA and IRS, which was received by both cheering and booing from the crowd. Paul later went on to challenge the popular Republican belief that we should remain in Iraq. "This war is unpopular and will cost the Republicans the elections," Paul declared. To that, Mike Huckabee responded: "When we invaded Iraq, we broke it, and essentially bought it, and now we need to fix it."

"McCain was fluent, Romney was conniving, and Ron Paul was bat[explicate] crazy," stated Senior Luke McCarthy as he voiced his opinion after the debate. "I believe that McCain won overall." People tended to share Luke McCarthy's belief, including senior Alec Schidlovsky: "They all did a very good job, in particular McCain did a very good job in answering questions in the war in Iraq, which he was able to back up." Teacher and political expert Matt Pappas also believed that John McCain won, but added, "It was hard to distinguish anyone as a winner."

"The questions were softballs," stated Pappas when asked what he thought of the debates. Issues have been raised concerning Fox hosting the Republican debates. "It's a disappointment that the debates were on Fox, considering that it has a reputation for being biased," explained senior James Tarvainen. "The debates should have been hosted by a news source that was more neutral when it came to politics."

Other issues were raised about some of the politician's answers. "I remember Brownback was asked whether or not he would give his vice president as much power as Bush has given Cheney. He started off fine, but then skirted around the question and ended with him comparing finding immigrants in our country to finding needles in a very large haystack," exclaimed McCarthy. "It's not even that hard of a question to answer."

"I felt Giuliani blew it as far as answering questions," barked Schidlovsky. "Every question he answered it would be about how he managed New York, even when one of the questions was about his family values."

In a poll taken in Oyster River High School, students were asked if they had to vote Republican, who would they vote for. McCain and Paul tied at 13%, Romney came in at 8%, and Giuliani was 5%. 62% said that they were undecided and didn't know enough about the candidates. None of the other candidates were voted for by the students involved in the poll.

The debates have had an overall positive effect. An article printed in the Wall Street Journal declared that the debates were "satisfyingly eventful." The next Republican debates will be held on October 21st in Orlando Fl. Tune in to see more political entertainment.



SPAIN: A ROBERT'S TALE



Robert Fletcher

News Department

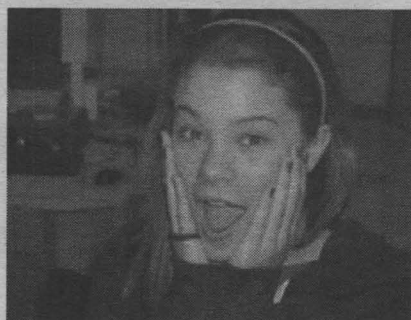
Robert Fletcher, a student at Oyster River High School and member of the Mouth of the River staff, is doing an exchange semester abroad in Spain. He will be writing as a foreign correspondent for the Mouth of the River news bureau in Madrid.

Blinding sun illuminates the small city of San Fernando, located in the south of Spain, along the Atlantic coast. A slight breeze blows through the window into my room, which is located on the fourth floor of an apartment building just outside the main part of town. It is 4:00 in the afternoon here, six hours ahead of the United States, and the apartment is quiet. In the living room, my 35 year old host father is sleeping, having returned from his job at a local supermarket about two hours ago. Down the hall, my two and five year old sisters are sleeping as well. Which leaves only me and my host mother, left awake.

Over the last two days the country finally receives some much needed thunder storms. "We do not get rain often, and when we do, it is usually not enough" Said Maria Dolores Castellano, my 38 year old host mother. Now, under the burning sun, everything has quickly returned to it's dry, heated state. Down on the streets below, rows of small Spanish houses stretch parallel to the streets leading into the center of town. From my fourth floor window, courtyards are visible within nearly every personal house, shielded from the view of the streets by exterior walls and doors.

Parked cars line the roads, baking in the sun, positioned next to their owners houses or across the streets. Occasional palm trees protrude upwards from the ground, but for the most part, the only places that are green are those which people have bothered to keep irrigated. The streets are empty, save for the occasional teenage Spaniard meandering through a neighborhood or lazily riding a moped. Even the large public soccer field, devoid of grass due to the long stretch of drought, lays still, lacking in the crowds of kids who so often

Continued on Page 7...



by Nicole Reynolds

News Department

Pink and Frilly or Dark and Gothic?

As some of you may have noticed, the way people dress at Oyster River can be pretty similar and laid back. Casual, comfortable outfits such as sweatpants and tee shirts are usually worn by many of us. But there are a few out there who aren't afraid to express themselves through their sense of style. When it comes to being different, are we, the students of Oyster River High School, as accepting as we think we are?

Most Oyster River students don't understand what the whole concept of goth is all about. "Goth style is weird because I don't know why someone would want to wear black all the time, but I understand that they like it. I think that kids dress preppy because they just want to look good," commented Robert Perkins, junior.

Many students agreed with Perkins. "They must get pretty hot in the summer wearing all that black," agreed Courtney Dennis, junior. "We only care what girls wear. I'd like to see less gangster people."

I'm not

diggin' that," said sophomore Brendan Kotlus. "The way we dress defines who we are. They (goths) kind of scare me sometimes," commented junior Gigi Crudele, "whether they're making a statement or not, they still kind of scare me." Some students, like junior Analise Stettner, didn't understand the combination of preppy and gothic style. "I'm not really into the whole girly-goth thing. Like the black shirts with pink frilly lace. It doesn't really make sense to me," said Stettner.

Others were less intimidated by the black clothing. "I think a lot of people dress the same. A lot of people wear the color blue and jeans. There's not a lot of diversity at our school. I wear whatever I want, it doesn't really affect me," said Ashlyn Merrill, senior. "It's something (being goth) I've wanted to do since I was really little. When I was two my favorite movie was Nightmare Before Christmas and I decided I wanted to be goth," explained Ayera Schreiber, freshman, "it has a little to do with the music I listen to, it fits my style. Goth makes a lot of people feel like they don't want to talk to me. It can be isolating, but nobody's really rude to me." Sophomore Katy Bir also felt the same as Schreiber. "I dress in black because I feel like it can be comfortable. It's easier to match things because black goes with everything. It slims you. With some people there's meaning behind wearing black, but for me there isn't," explained Bir. "I don't have a problem with goth or preppy styles. If it's you then it's you," commented Eryn True, junior.

Some students, like junior Brian Kim, agreed with True. "For a lot of people, it's (fashion) not a big deal," agreed Kim, "and for the people that go all out, you know, that's good for them. As far as preppy versus gothic, they're both pretty much similar. The way goths dress is just more noticeable."

*Spain: A Robert's Tale continued from page 6...*

gather and play fútbol up and down the large stretch of dirt.

My high school, which is easily visible from my apartment patio, does not start until the 24th, and without any friends or absolute knowledge of the town of San Fernando, I am largely at a loss of what to do.

My family is great, and they have done made every effort to welcome me warmly into their culture. "You are content here?" my mother Maria frequently asks me, to which I always reply truthfully: "Si, muy contento". Frequently we visit my host mother's sister, at who's house the extended family gathers and we spent hours talking and eating, while my mother, aunt's and uncles, like the majority of the people in Spain, smoke cigarettes continuously. At these gathering, I am again asked by other members of the family whether or not I am content, and my answer is always the same.

My aunt's and uncles have exchange students as well, and at these gatherings I get to spend time with kids my age from New York, New Zealand, and Austria. "The people in Spain are very nice, no?" Asked Jay Robert, a 16 year old student who is being hosted by my aunt. I replied yes, recounting a story about the lady with whom I checked my luggage on the flight to Spain, and telling Jay how she had offered me the option of Window or Isle seating on each of my individual flights.

Yesterday my family took me to the beautiful beaches of the Atlantic Coast, which stretch from San Fernando to Cádiz and onwards in both directions. At this time of the year the beaches are mostly deserted. "It's because the water is so cold," Said Jose Ramon Alba, my 35 year old host father, "the day that the water gets a little bit colder, the beaches empty immediately." As I swam with my host father and two sisters, I figured that the water must have been about as warm as it ever gets back home, but I guess that must be considered very cold by Spanish terms.

Currently, I find myself excited about the start of school. With no friends, no fluency in Spanish, no key to my apartment yet, and no knowledge of the workings of public transportation within the city, I am slightly hampered in my ability to go out and socialize. I know this will change when school starts, maybe even before, and I have no doubt that my foreign experience in Spain will be nothing short of phenomenal. However, in the meantime, I can't help but feel slightly bored. Four stories below, kids have gathered in the fenced in "field" and began to play soccer across the dirt surface. I suppose I should try to go and join them, but it occurs to me that I have no shoes suited for such an activity.

Oh well, it's sunny, the beaches are beautiful and so are the women. Maybe I'll go ask for a key to the apartment and take a walk through the town, see where it takes me.

On the Spot With..... Spencer Eastman

Name? Spencer Eastman

Grade?

Who knows?

How many schools have you been to?

Six

What were they?

Oyster River as a freshmen...for a month, Midway in Manchester for a month, the Oliverian School for 1 year, 1 month, and 2 days, Mt. Prospect Academy/Beckett for 1 year, 1 month, 11 days (which was crap), then Longview school from January to now.

What was your most memorable moment?

Doing a team/trust building exercise in a field and running full speed, blind-folded, into a steel I-beam. I tore the cartilage in my nose, got 7 stitches in my knee, chipped my right front tooth, and got knocked out cold.

What made you want to come back to OR?

Private schools suck

Are you here to stay?

Yeah...?

Why did you leave OR in the first place?

Cause I'm lazy and didn't feel like getting up

What are you going to do after high school?

I'm going to join the military as (hopefully) a Para-rescue jumper in the U.S. Air Force

Any advice for underclassmen?

Don't (expletive) up

What are your political views?

Whatever pisses the person I am debating with off

What is the meaning of life?

There is none. It's a sad reality and we all have to deal with it. We are just small beings, so just have fun and don't worry.

If you were a beverage, what would it be?

A muffin, I don't like stupid questions

Would it be refreshing?

I'm gonna kick you in the nuts Wobo

Why are you always bleeding?

I wish I knew...

What's the most interesting class you've ever taken?

Life

Favorite School?

Fish

Least favorite school?

All of them

Has the constant motion of scholastic installments put stress on your system?

Yeah, it's hard to adjust because I'm always moving. But I have experienced more parts of society than I would have in Oyster River. It's been a positive experience and has allowed me to feel more shakin' and bakin'/ movin' and groovin'.

Where do you feel it most?

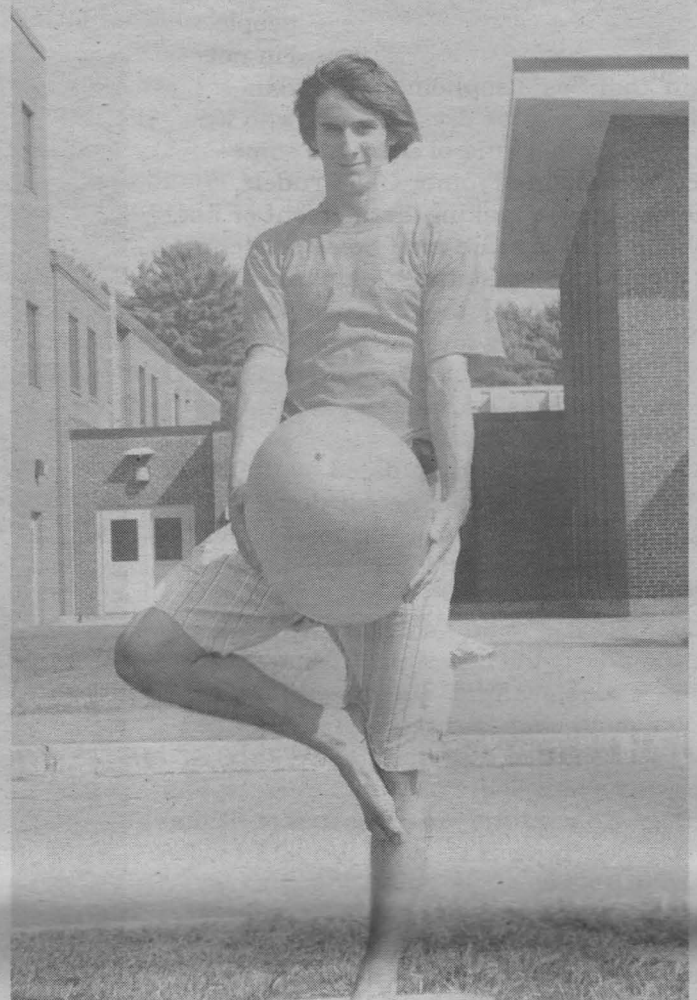
The hallways, I get really confused

Finally, do you know the Muffin Man?

Yeah, I heard Miles Goldberg hooked up with him



Ben Woodburn
Features



Spencer Eastman looking zen before a game of ovulation

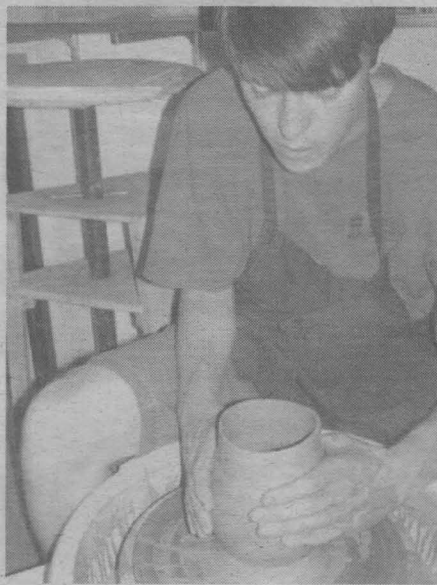
Ryan Daly wrestled, killed, and ate a live bear


Chris Hall
Features

ARTIST OF THE MONTH:

Paul Igoe, Ceramics

Watching Paul Igoe throw on the wheel is really fascinating. His movements are slightly spastic, but smooth, with the touch of a master craftsman. With each sleight of hand flick of the wrist, the form in front of him changes dramatically, each new incarnation more radical than the next. His forms for the most part are quite innovative, and not the typical high school waste of clay. But each form, even the more conservative ones, evoke that same geometrically simple yet striking symmetry that is his style.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO POTTERY?

I was accidentally put into Pottery I on diversity day a long time ago, thought it was interesting, and wanted to try it.

WHAT ART CLASSES HAVE YOU TAKEN?

Pottery and I am now in Advanced Art. Ceramics independent study last year.

DO YOU LIKE TO HAND BUILD OR THROW ON THE WHEEL?

Throwing, I think it's more neat and structured.

BEST ART EXPERIENCE?

Any successful firing of glazes
WORST ART

EXPERIENCE?

Losing 25lbs [of clay] on the wheel. (This happens from an irreversible mistake)

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFLUENCES?

I don't think so, I work off what I see.

ARE YOU GOING TO SELL YOUR WORK?

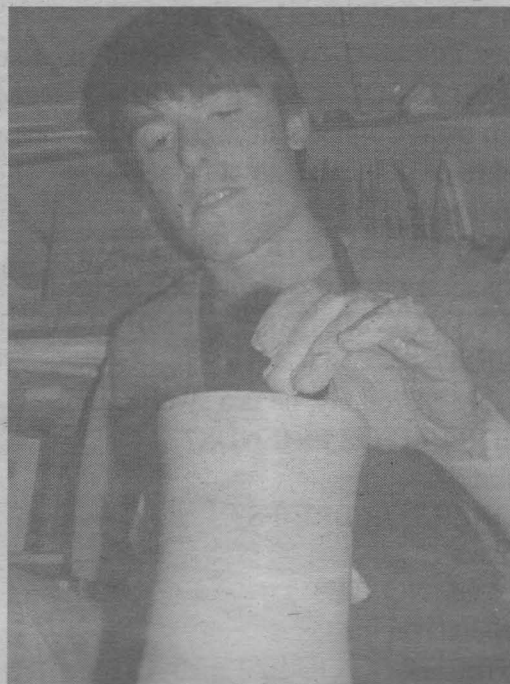
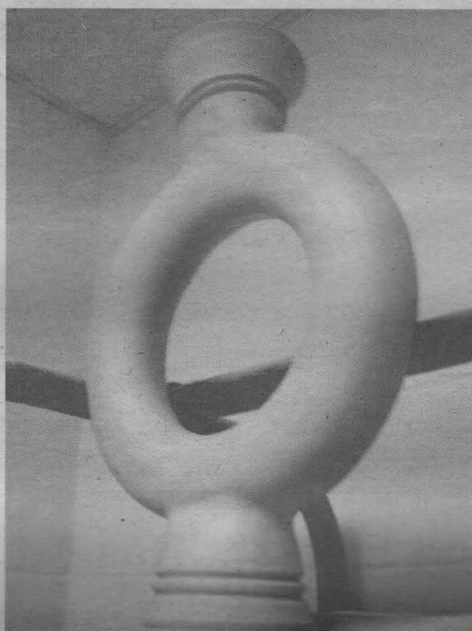
I'm hoping to in the future, but I am working on my skills now. I am working into buying a kiln.

ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE CERAMICS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Most definitely, in college.

FINALLY, WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF THE IDEAL FORM?

Simplistic art with some useless abstract.


The Master of
the Clay.

REVIEWING RILO KILEY AT THE AVALON

Jenny Lewis walks onto the Avalon stage and everybody cheers. It may seem like a normal occurrence at a concert, but after several years of time off from touring, seeing Rilo Kiley back on stage together is something to celebrate.

After the release of her first solo album, *Rabbit Fur Coat*, Jenny Lewis, who fronts the band Rilo Kiley, recorded their new album *Under the Blacklight* with her long term band mates, Blake Sennett, Pierre de Reeder, and Jason Boesel.

The indie band from Los Angeles specializes in up beat songs with meaningful lyrics. "All is fair in love and we're in love/ now that everybody's dead we can finally talk/ can vanity and happiness coexist?" these lyrics appear in the song "Love and War". Although the band has been recording since 2001, they had only released three albums before last month. After their three year break the crowd at the Avalon in Boston, on Friday the 21st couldn't be happier to see the band back together.

With opening bands, Jonathan Rice and Grand Ole Party, the packed venue came alive! Grand Ole party, the first opening band, stormed into the Avalon with space aged songs and energizing beats. A line formed later with a large group clamoring to purchase their album. "We really love touring with Jenny and the band," said Paul Labno of Rilo Kiley, "they have great energy and are some of the nicest people you will ever meet."

Although Rice was a bit of a controversial second act, the crowd's enthusiasm didn't fade. "He was kind of unintelligible," says Sam Davis, a freshman at Boston University. "But, it will just make us that much more grateful to hear Rilo Kiley!" he said with jubilation. Oyster River Junior, Ella Nimmo on the other hand really enjoyed Rice's performance. "I really liked him," she says earnestly. "I thought that he was just really good."

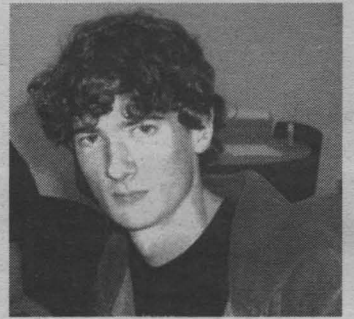
When Rilo Kiley finally made it onto the stage, the crowd was more than ready for their set. With songs from both their new album and previously well-loved albums, Rilo Kiley played both new, country infused pop and older, favorite ballads such as "portions for foxes". Jenny Lewis had a friendly demeanor, seeming thrilled to see all the Boston fans, and she even played a song from her solo album, which was both touching and surprisingly modest. "I really think that Rilo Kiley is even better live than they are on their albums," says Nimmo.

Jenny Lewis spent her youth as a child actress appearing in films as "The Wizard" and "Pleasantville". Her presence and charm is overwhelming on stage. "Jenny Lewis is who I would want to be!" exclaims Kennan Masters, a senior from Wearing High School in Beverly Massachusetts. "The whole band is just phenomenal."

While it may be a while before Rilo Kiley returns to the Seacoast area, they are certainly a band that no one wants to miss seeing in concert. They are continuing onto New York City and then down the East coast before heading into the South West. One thing is for sure, any show with Rilo Kiley is one that shouldn't be missed.


Leah Salloway
Features

Rilo Kiley (cortosey of
www.rockrgirl.com/images/rkcover8.jpg)

Chris Hall
Features

NEW TEACHER PROFILE: Mr. Garman

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OR THUS FAR?

I enjoy how willing students are to discuss things in class. I also like how the policies are clear on what to do, and the openness allowed in one's teaching, where you can go with it.

WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE OR?

I interned here in 01-02 with Mr. Brewer, and worked at Epping High School teaching English.

WHY DID YOU COME TO OR?

I was looking for a school I would like to make my home for a couple decades.

WHAT IS SOME BACKGROUND ON MR. GARMAN.

I am from Connecticut, went to high school with Katherine Heigl (Grey's Anatomy/Knocked Up) and lived down the street from David Letterman. I went to UNH, with Mrs. Engstrom and Mr. Hawley.

WHAT CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?

Expository writing, Genre studies, and Readers Workshop.

HAVE YOU MET ANY MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT? ANY THOUGHTS ON THEM?

Yes, Mr. Bromely, he is a swell chum.

SEINFELD OR FRIENDS?

Seinfeld

BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

Boxers

TIE OR NO TIE?

Depends on the Day

WHERE DO YOU EAT LUNCH?

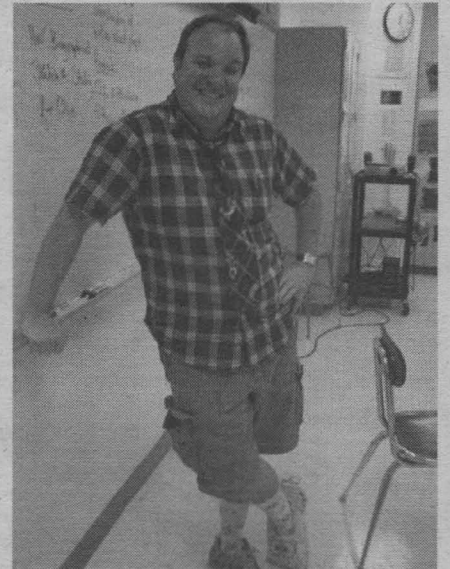
With my department.

COFFEE OR TEA?

Neither

INTERESTS?

Movies, skiing, and poker.



Trevor Garman - a new face in the English Department.

Bull Runs to Rubber Band Fights... Has Freshmen Life Changed? by Ben Woodburn

Ben Woodburn
Features

I remember my first day of high school. I remember it because I don't know if I've ever been that nervous in my life. I stepped off my big yellow bus and headed tentatively into the building. I got lost between every period and was late to all my classes. As soon as I finally started to get settled in, my world was turned upside down. I had my first encounter with an upperclassman. I made the mistake of walking through the senior core on my way to science class. I was rewarded by getting dragged from the core by 3 senior boys, and becoming the Skunk for three days. I quickly learned my lesson and steered clear of the senior core for the remainder of the year.

Every day I was constantly reminded of where I belonged in the scheme of school. Seniors ran rampant through the halls, terrorizing any unlucky person in their path. I witnessed my fellow classmates being thrown into trash cans, pushed into lockers, and bowled over in the halls. Not to mention the games that the seniors included us in. Nothing spells pain like a freshmen vs. seniors game of buck-buck.

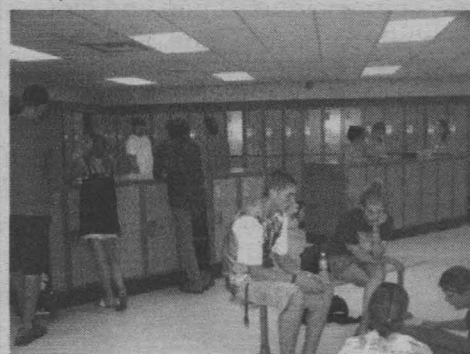
The freshmen this year seem to be having a much different first year than the one I remember. "The freshmen this year seem too confident," says Junior Tony Brownell. "I don't really like their attitude." This seems to be the opinion of most of the upperclassmen in Oyster River. Senior Matt Valley says that the freshmen "need to show us respect, and aren't doing so." However, this is not the opinion of every senior in our school. "Freshmen don't need to be scared of us," says Senior Connor Jacobsen, "Just because we're 4 years older than them doesn't mean they need to fear us." Another senior, Julie Puffer, says that the freshmen "are very self-involved and dramatic, but some of them are pretty cool."

Mr. Morin calls the freshmen "wonderful". "I haven't had any issues with them so far, they seem to be much more mature than previous years."

Freshmen's view of the upperclassmen seems to have changed in the past year as well. I loved my senior class when I was a freshman, but I knew not to mess with them. If you mess with a senior, you pay the price. Freshman Collin Lawson says that "the sophomores are kind of jerks, but I've only talked to a few upperclassmen. I haven't met any mean ones yet." Another freshman, Andy Southworth, agrees with Lawson. "The sophomores are worse than the seniors, they push us around and make fun of us, which doesn't make sense because they were freshmen last year."

Our administration this year seems to have a high opinion of this year's crop of seniors. "The seniors this year are much better than last year," says Principal Laura Rogers, "They're much more easy-going and mature, and they don't feel they need to beat on kids to feel like seniors."

For better or for worse, the freshmen experience in our school has definitely changed. From bull runs to rubber bands, things have been altered every year. "When we were freshmen, the seniors were able to get away with so much more," says Senior Derrick Kotlus, "We had so much fun freshmen year without all the rules that we have now." As for the class of 2011's potential, it may be too early to tell. "Give them a little more time," says Mr. Morin "It's too early in the year to pass judgments."



Seniors hang out in the core

Max DiSesa and Alec Schidlovsky are stupid...AT THE SAME TIME!



LOCAL BEATS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

New Hampshire on a Friday night doesn't sound too much like a party. Students can go hang out outside store 24, maybe drive around, go to someone's house for a few hours. Friday nights were made for fun, but it doesn't seem like there is much of it in Durham. Who would imagine that sitting in empty parking lots and driving around aimlessly could get old? Hard as it is to believe, the boredom hits pretty quick. One thing that most teenagers will agree with is that music is a huge part of teenage life. It's easy to sit around complaining that the only concerts and teen clubs are in Boston, and while Boston is a great place for musical entertainment there are places to go that are a lot closer to home.

A few miles away in Dover and Newmarket are places that could inject a little amusement into teenage lives. With music playing all night long, dancing, and socializing, they are places where a normal teenager can just go and let loose. One of these places is just 10 miles away in downtown Dover. The Dover Brick House offers a host of musical acts catering especially for the hardcore and alternative scenes. With acts like the Dresden Dolls, and historically even the Blue Bloods, the Brick House also offers open mic nights every Tuesday. The atmosphere is cozy and intimate with a dining area, a couch, and a small stage and area for dancing or moshing. Junior Alex Freid used to be a frequenter of the Brick House "They only do hardcore shows now," laments Freid. "It seems like that's what everyone was into." It seems that in the past year the Brick House has made a shift from an active punk venue to one catering more to hard core and emo. If you are into that type of scene a night at the Brick House is a place where fun is guaranteed as well as minor hearing loss and the possibility of some dancing induced bruises.

If the hard core and alternative scene just isn't for you, the Stone Church in Newmarket is a great place to go. With acts like Truffle, Dar Williams, and They Might Be Giants, the Stone Church is able to bring in a larger range of performers of many descriptions. A recent act was Apollo Sunshine, which brought out many college students. Newmarket High school Junior Sean Riley loves the Stone Church, and thinks of it as a place where he and his town really connect. "There is a small dance area," says Riley, "the bands come out and it feels like it is really awe some. It's so close knit and when you go into town the next day you'll see the person you were dancing next to the night before" With long tables running the length of the venue, people are free to either grab a bite to eat or simply enjoy the music. The Stone Church offers a variety of acts including punk shows such as the Toasters and the Briggs, as well as folk and reggae. While most shows are all ages, some are aimed towards older audiences. Regardless, the Stone Church is a place where dancing and having fun is always on the menu.

The real hidden gem of our community is in downtown Dover. Right next to the Town Hall is the tiny restaurant that is Dos Amigos Burritos. Dover Dos has a Friday night free music event which happens every Friday starting at 9:00 PM. Dover resident Dylan Haigh

attends almost every Friday

session. "It's a time for me to see my friends," says Haigh. "A lot of my friends play, and it's kind of like a showcase so we can all show off our new stuff." Dos offers a free time slot to any local musician who can bring in some burrito munchers. Most of the musicians have their own sounds, playing anything from old school folk, to new electronic beats. The doors are always open and the food is always delicious. Frequented by many of the "Portsmouth Kids" and Dover townies, the nights are filled with what becomes incessant chatter as old friends meet up over rice, beans and music. "Dos is a great place to hear new music and meet great people," says Portland Oregon resident Maria Phinney. "You never know who is going to be there who will completely blow you away!" The doors close at 1:30 AM, but the party often continues onto the streets of Dover. It is a place where the message of love through music is still conveyed. Dover Dos is definitely one of the hidden gems of our artistic area.

If all of this going to shows and sitting around being "appreciative" sounds boring to you, there is another place to go. Located just down the street from Dos Amigos Burritos, is the new Mojitos. An under 18 club, it is quickly

becoming a place for teenage girls to go and dance the night away. Mojitos is in the building that used to be the Crescent City Bistro, and it is now a place for a youthful good time. But Mojitos is not for the faint of heart; Coe-Brown Sophomore, Kathryn Busch felt a little overwhelmed, "There were a lot of people there who looked a lot older than 18," says Busch. "I mean, the dancing was fun but I didn't stay too late," says the blonde haired teen, a look of mild discomfort on her face. If you are going to go to Mojitos it may be advisable to travel in a group and enjoy yourselves safely.

If you are willing to drive a small distance, Boston and other places in Massachusetts always offer a wide array of music venues and youth dance clubs where the party never stops. For punk shows, Saturday nights at Club Lido have everything you could want including two stages and low prices; the rest of the week lets people hear the best of South American beats. The Avalon and Orpheum are also good places to go to catch a mix of music. These venues are sure to have something for everyone. The Middle East is a more intimate venue, and a favorite for the underground scene and in Haverhill, Welfare Records gets punk acts from all over the world. There is a tremendous amount of choices for concert locations, and dance clubs such as the Roxy, Axis, and TT the Bears. An amazing night is really just an hour away in Massachusetts.

With so many local hot spots for good times in New Hampshire it is important that another night isn't wasted in the parking lot of Store 24, pondering what to do. It's time we got out there and faced the music.



Leah Salloway
Features



The Dover Brick House
on a winter's day
(courtesy of www.doverbrickhouse.com)



Dos Amigos
Logo(courtesy of www.dosamigosburritos.com)



Andy Stark
Features

OVERHEARDS by Andy Stark

"I'm marrying Mr. Hawley" - Mr. Zottoli

"Why kick a hurt dog? Kick a healthy dog, it's much more exciting" - Mr. Zottoli

"Today was kind of a bad day, I got run over by Susana in a rolly chair" -Leah B.

"I've got more leotards than I know what to do with" - Mr. Lawrence

"I'm just sad that you're lonely." -Ms. Kucera

"You should have gone for the loincloth" -Sarah Crothers



Chris Hall
Features

NEW TEACHER PROFILE: MR. FAMULARI

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OR THUS FAR?

Great school with positive student community

WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE OR?

Interned with Zottoli, but this is my first teaching job. Before this I subbed and coached football and baseball.

WHAT IS SOME BACKGROUND ON MR. F.

UNH Grad in 2000, and Master's in 2007. I played football and club baseball. I am married and we have one dog.

WHAT CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?

World Cultures, Cit Ed, and US History, which is challenging due to the broad expanse of material to fit into one year..

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS KNOW UPON ENTERING YOUR CLASS?

To have mutual respect and an open mind.

HAVE YOU MET ANY MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT? ANY THOUGHTS ON THEM?

Mr Bromley- I think is a down to earth guy and he's into surfing like me.

SEINFELD OR FRIENDS?

Seinfeld

BOXERS OR BREIFS?

Boxer Briefs

TIE OR NO TIE?

Not unless necessary

WHERE DO YOU EAT LUNCH?

Usually at my desk, but I like to eat with my department.

COFFEE OR TEA?

Coffee with cream, and a little sugar.



New social studies teacher Paul Famulari

Leah Salloway helped Steven Tyler pick out his telescope



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Here to inform you of what's happening in our area, in terms of concerts, movie releases, album release dates, and other exciting events is the What's happening Section! This section will display the upcoming events in the area. From movies to theater the what's happening section can help you decide where to go for the best new entertainment.

Leah Salloway

Features

MOVIES

October 26

Dan In Real Life

Jimmy Carter Man From Plains

Run, Fat Boy, Run

Saw IV

November 2

American Gangster

Bee Movie

The Kite Runner

Martian Child

November 9

Fred Claus

I Could Never Be Your Woman

Lions For Lambs

No Country For Old Men

November 16

Beowulf

Love In The Time Of Cholera

Margot At The Wedding

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium

November 21

Enchanted

Hitman

I'm Not There

The Mist

November 30

Cassandra's Dream

Pathology

Thomas Kincade's The Christmas Cottage

November films (no specific date)

Looking For Cheyenne

Album Releases

October

29 The Eagles Long Road Out Of Eden

29 Robert Plant and Alison Krauss Raising Sand

29 Cardigans Greatest Hits

November

05 Angels & Airwaves, I-Empire

12 Mike Oldfield, Music Of The Spheres

12 Wu-Tang Clan, The 8 Diagrams

12 David Gray, Greatest Hits

12 Duran Duran, Red Carpet Massacre

12 Led Zeppelin, Mothership

19 Daft Punk

PLAYS IN BOSTON

Sweeny Todd

Wicked

October

30 Morrissy

26 Dear Leader

30 Van Halen

30 Rouge Wave

30 The Thermals

November

03 The academy is

03 and 04 The decemberists

07, 08, 10, and 11 Trans Siberian orchestra

09 Fall out boy

09 Ani Diffraco

11 The police

21 Tegan and Sara

27 Chiodos

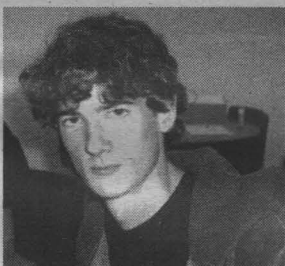
December

1 Ted Leo and the Pharmacists



Angels and Airwaves, release their new album in October

(Photo courtesy of, laird68.blogspot.com)



Chris Hall

Features

LOCAL ART ESTABLISHMENTS: HOW YOU BENEFIT

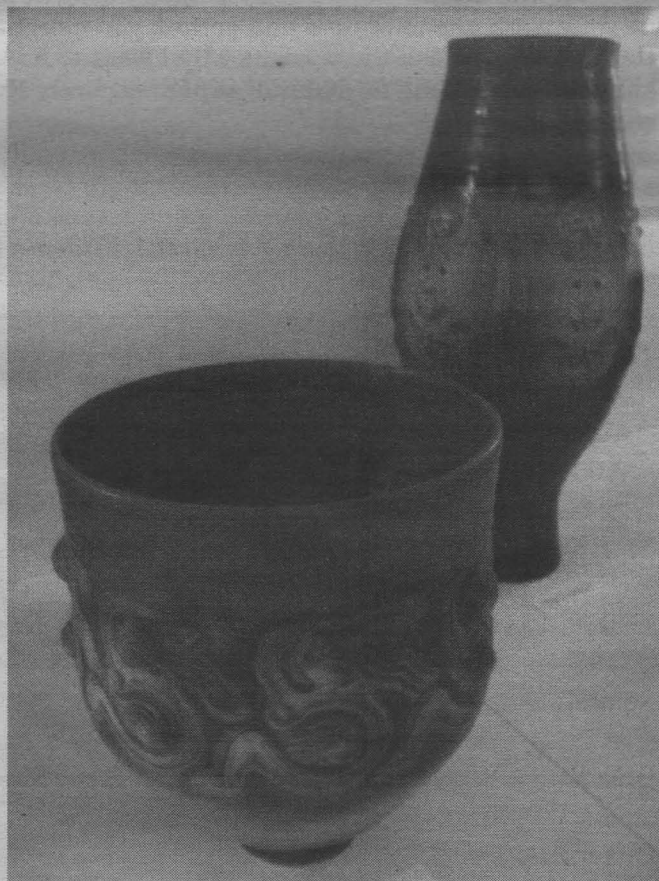
One look inside the ORHS art room and you know that the art program here is both large and incredible. It has a complete, class sized darkroom, a huge ceramics room, and very experienced and knowledgeable instructors. This reporter is especially familiar with this department, and has been racking up art credits for the last three years of

high school. It would be a shame to be a student at this school and only take Intro to Art. There is a program for everybody. "It caters to people who are individually motivated," says senior Emily Boucher "It offers lots of freedoms, for people who want to develop their own style, and supplies opportunity to experiment with many mediums." We know the art scene is awesome at our high school, but what is happening in our community, and how does it benefit our art program?

In Durham, there are two major art centers. There is the Paul Creative Arts Center (PCAC) at UNH, and the Mill pond arts center. The Art Gallery at UNH is a very expansive place with two levels, and exhibitions of artists from near and far. It is open to everybody free of charge, making it a great place for both students and the public to drop in during the UNH school year, when it is open. The current shows are highlights of "work by the studio art faculty members in the Department of Art and Art History who are new" as well as a 75th anniversary show by the League of American Craftsmen. Sometimes the art classes will just walk the halls of the PCAC, to see what their peers are creating. It can be really inspirational to see what's happening, when it's happening. The PCAC helps educational programs, especially at ORHS. They allow us access to their building plus supplies and materials. Oyster River art teacher Tim Lawrence is enthusiastic about the relationship. "We just got back from the gallery," he says.

At the Mill Pond art center, there are a variety of classes offered, and the center itself also houses art shows. This is where our school has its senior art show in the spring. "Bill Rogers contacted us," reflects Lawrence. "They had an opening, and we took them up on it." The senior art show started out small with just 8 kids, and then turned into the annual event we know today. "Some high schools have shows in malls," says a disgusted Lawrence. "The Mill Pond Center is a very worthy place and makes it as important as it is." He explains that it is more rewarding to show work in such a classy environment. "You are an artist, not a high school artist, but an artist."

There may not seem like there is a large art scene around here, especially when compared to places like Boston. But in fact I see a lot of local and student art at coffee shops around Dover, Newmarket, Durham, and Portsmouth. This kind of venue is a great place for people to get their stuff viewed by the public. But even though we don't live in the art capitol of the world, there are still many local art installations that enrich our school art program, and most importantly make the arts available to everyone



Clay pots displayed at the UNH library

Ben Woodburn is a recovering World of Warcraft addict



Andy Stark
Features

Ski, School?

Have you ever thought what it would be like to go to a school where you live with some of your teachers? Some choose that path when they go choose to venture off to ski academies. Some of the

most popular ski academies that students go to are Carrabassett Valley Academy and Waterville Valley. These schools are all private and very small; you may only have 25 kids in your graduating class.

What is the real reason for kids to suddenly switch out of the school district and move north for months? It's not easy, and definitely not cheap. Is it just an excuse to tie in skiing and traveling with an everyday school routine or are these academies the best solution for students who wish to excel in their winter sport of choice?



Cory Ransom - a student at CVA. Just another day hitting the slopes while we hit the books.

Now, students who go to ski academies aren't always skiing. Students at these schools have a rigorous schedule that not only includes on-snow training time but also classes, physical workouts and equipment training. Students usually have about 4-5 hours of classroom time; they also have a lot more one on one time with the teachers. A school like CVA or Waterville Valley may have a 1:1 or 1:2 teacher student ratios.

Students compete in their sport, either racing or freestyle, in a few of the surrounding states. Races are held throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Maine and Canada throughout the winter. Most competitive students usually have to attend a mandatory preseason training session in Europe. For spring training some students travel out west to the Canadian Rockies, Oregon and Northern California to ski even more.

For any student, being away from school for even a few days will get you so behind in work it's up to your eyeballs. However, students who attend ski academies miss weeks at a time for traveling to their races. "The teachers are really good about planning out your work ahead of time and getting you caught up if you leave for a few days for a race," said Cory Ransom, who currently attends CVA. "One of the reasons why I went to a ski academy was because I knew that I would be able to train and compete for skiing without falling far behind" explained Keely Ryan, who has attended CVA and Holderness, but now a student here at Oyster River.

How much do you really get to ski when attending these types of schools? At CVA you're on-mountain time begins at 9:45 and ends at 3:00, where you then return for more class time from 3:30 to 5:30. Waterville Valley has a slightly different set up. Students have more class time in the morning and less skiing, but another physical land workout afterwards. Including the traveling for races and the time spent away from school, the students here are surely getting in enough skiing.

The following is a schedule for a typical day of a Waterville Valley student:

- 6:30 -AM Wake up
- 6:45 - 7:00 AM Morning Sport
- 7:00 AM Breakfast
- 7:30 AM Morning meeting for all students and teachers
- 7:40 - 12:00 PM Noon Classes
- 12:00 - 12:30 PM Lunch
- 12:30 - 3:30 PM On-snow training
- 4:00 - 5:30 PM Workout in the pool or on land
- 6:00 - 6:30 PM Dinner and clean-up crew
- 6:30 - 7:00 PM Equipment training
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM Study hall
- 9:30 PM Lights out for middle school students
- 10:00 PM Lights out for high school students

Students attending academies like these usually live in dorms or nearby locations. The rules in the dorms are extremely strict and there is not much tolerance for rule breakers. "It is a lot stricter here in terms of how we live. If a guy wants to go up to a girl's room or vise-versa there is no chance," said Cory Ransom. "You can only hangout with the other sex in the common room on the bottom of the building." Cory lives in a house with his family in Kingston Maine at CVA. He has been living up there full time during the school year and living there makes it easier for him to train for skiing.

Ski academies are a completely different experience compared to schools like Oyster River. "You're classes are more mapped out for you and the schools are a lot smaller." Said Kiera Ryan. Going to a school where your entire school is less then the size of one class at Oyster River must bring significant differences. "Since these schools are smaller, if something happens it gets around really fast, it can get obnoxious" said Cory Ransom.

Are ski academies better then public schools like Oyster River? "You can't really compare the two schools because ski academies and public schools are a completely different experience," said Kiera Ryan, who previously attended CVA. If you plan on ever trying to seriously compete in freestyle or racing in skiing or snowboarding a ski academy is probably your best bet. These schools have curriculums made for the students so they can seriously train and compete in their winter sport, and in school.

NEW TEACHER PROFILE: Mrs. Yatsevitch

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OYSTER RIVER SO FAR?

I've really enjoyed being at OR, with the kids and the faculty, an overall great experience. I interned with Mrs. Kucera, so I was already familiar with some of the students already.

HOW DID IT FEEL TO COME INTO A TEACHING JOB MID-SEMESTER LAST YEAR?

It was definitely a challenge; I was flying by the seat of my pants from the start.

WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE OR?

Before I went to graduate school I was in curriculum development at a preschool, ages 3-5. I have also been a landscape contractor and a garden designer.

WHAT CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?

Debate and Persuasion, Poetry and Fiction, Journalism 1, as well as an ESOL tutor position.

WHAT IS SOME BACKGROUND INFO ON MRS. Y?

I am originally from Baltimore, and grew up in Cornish N.H. I grew up in an agricultural background which made me connect with nature.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ENTERING YOUR CLASS?

They are going to have to get used to being surprised. But maybe they are not surprised. I'm a little more animated than most people can handle. I hope that no one falls asleep and they have fun.

SEINFELD OR FRIENDS?

Seinfeld.

TIE OR NO TIE?

No tie.

WHERE DO YOU EAT LUNCH?

With the ESOL students or in the English project room with the motley crew of English teachers.

COFFEE OR TEA?

Coffee

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

I love to write, hike, get outside, traveling, and I am a gardener at heart.

FINNALLY, IS THERE ANY GOSSIP YOU WANT TO CLEAN UP?

I sure hope not.



Chris Hall
Features



Ms..Y In Action

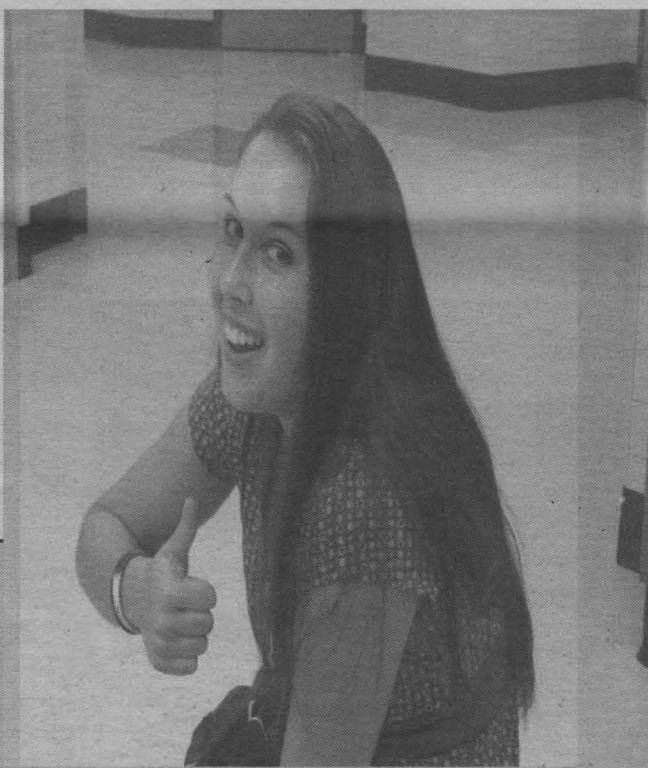
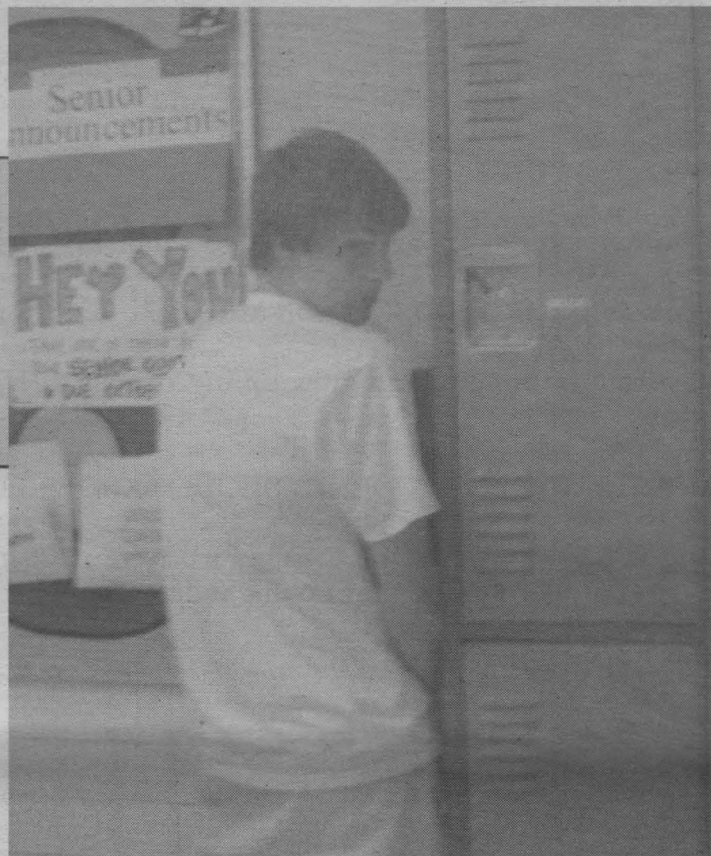
John Kerrigan ran into Mrs. Kucera with a roly chair.

What's your most awkward



Thayer Harris: Freshmen year I forgot to get dressed before school and showed up naked!

Andy Coryea: The time I got pants'd fully by Greg Zarembo



Jess Miller: When I pee'd my pants in elementary school. I had to walk to the nurse's office with pee dripping down my leg!

Paraj Patel: Dressing up in a bear costume in a Spanish play in front of a lot of people.

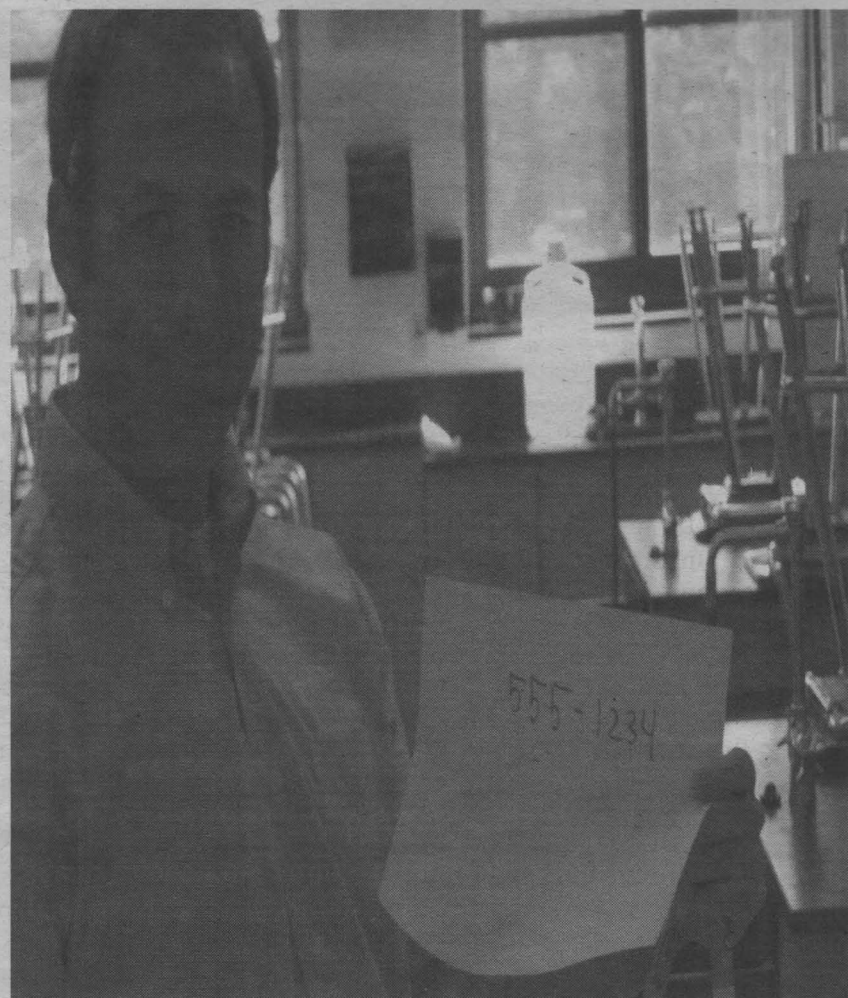


or embarrassing moment?



Mrs. Miale:
Showing up to
Store 24 in a car
with Matt Valley,
Eli Chinburg, and
Chelsea Kolter.

Monika Beliveau: When I
tried to take my sweatshirt
off for Linda Nelson, and
both shirts came off. I was
in the middle of the soccer
field in front of everyone.



Mr. Baker: In grad
school, I tried to
get a girl's number
by telling the
professor I was in
her science group.
I chickened out
and didn't call her,
but the next day
the professor
called me out on it
in front of the
whole class.

by Hallie Gremlitz
Op-Ed Department



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's amazing to me that the class of 2008 has finally made it to the top of the totem pole. We are finally seniors. That's our core, that's our parking lot, and those are our senior privileges...well you can read about those in Alec's article. In only eight more months we'll be under that behemoth white tent in our caps and gowns saying goodbye to each other. I know we're all thinking it, but it really feels like yesterday that we were freshmen looking at those big scary seniors that we've become.

Speaking of freshmen, hello class of 2011. Now I'm not a freshman hater. I'm really not. I also realize that much of this issue of MOR has been dedicated to the freshmen. I think the reasoning behind this consistency is you are a horrendously large new addition to our school. In all honesty, we aren't quite sure how to react to you, so we write articles about you and what we think you need to know. Don't take it to be offensive, rather see it as advice from people who have been here and experienced the things you are going through.

I just have a few things on my mind that I would like to express to you. This is Oyster River. We are not that high school from the movie "Mean Girls" (or "High School Musical" for all you Disney fans out there). Oyster River is a small town school. We're weird. We enjoy being weird. Wearing sweatpants to school isn't only acceptable, but it's suggested. You don't need to spend an hour straightening your hair every morning because, and I mean this in all seriousness, it doesn't matter. People don't care. Sleep in, throw your hair in a messy bun and come to school. No one's going to know the difference. If you feel like rolling out of bed and wearing your pajamas to school, by all means go for it. If you've never done that before, try it. It will change your life for the better.

I don't mean to be ragging on only the females, but I do have another important issue I need to vocalize to you. Purses, handbags, pocketbooks, whatever you call them. Leave them at home. You aren't going to the mall. You are going to school. There is no secret branch of Charlotte Russe hidden anywhere within our walls so what else do you need them for? Get a bigger backpack if you need one, but purses have to go.

If you're looking for a way to get involved and meet new people may I suggest joining a club, (like, oh I don't know, drama club because it's the best one). Don't just waste your freshman year away because you'll get bored and hate it come January.

Generally, just relax. No one likes an uptight freshman. Chill out and enjoy your time here with us. Don't forget to respect your seniors. There's no need to fear us, just know your place. You will get here one day. But for now, it's our time.

by Max DiSesa
Op-Ed Department



GOD'S GIFT TO MANKIND: HALO 3

There are times in life when you know you've crossed the threshold into what's pushing the limits of geek kingdom and what's considered on the fence. Standing in line for the historic critically acclaimed game of the planet, I think I'm proud to say I've crossed over that threshold.

September 25th, 12:00 am marked a day of reckoning for the fans of the "Halo" universe. I felt no shame standing in the presence of true "nerds," if you will. Although we all had different agenda's in life, together, we were all brought to Game Stop in Newington, NH for a common goal: to finish the fight. This fight had been left on a very sour note preceding the conclusion of Halo 2. Not only did we have more questions to ask about the building climatic plot, but fewer questions which were answered.

The moment I got home at 12:13am, and yes I may have gone over the speed limit, I opened the limited edition Halo 3 which I knew contained the answers I had so desperately needed. From then on there was no looking back. Setting the difficulty on Heroic, I did not stop to think about the trivial universe around me, but rather the world of Master Chief, or John-117 as we like to call him.

Approximately seven hours later of uninterrupted video time, I had completed the game and stood transfixed at the severity of what I had just done. For most this would denote a serious red flag when a mere video game dominates seven hours straight of your life. For me, it's just another day in the office.

Halo 3 is, without a doubt the best First Person Shooter (FPS) game I have ever played, and its intricacy rivals Halo 1 itself. It contains the best of its predecessors and attempts to expand upon them. In the opening scene the assault rifle is re-introduced, which Halo fans have all been missing dearly since the 2nd installation, and no longer do we need to worry about playing The Arbiter, as he will be moved into the NPC category which is a great benefit, because he is a very powerful ally. However, if you do choose to play co-op, the 2nd player to log in will become The Arbiter, which I found to be more convenient to the story line.

The story arc of the Halo universe continues with the final installment of the trilogy. The Master Chief and the Arbiter seek to stop the "Prophet of Truth" from activating the Ark, which would plunge the galaxy into peril, all while combating the flood lead by the "Gravemind." Halo 3 offers much needed advancements including the addition of the Hornet, which is the human equivalent to the banshee. Also the introduction to "Equipment" tips the favor back into humanity. Activated by the default button "X," these include cloaking device, deployable cover, bubble shield, EMP, Auto Turret, and more.

Many Halo fans were gravely upset when Bungie nerfed the pistol in Halo 2. Fans will be delighted to hear it got a big buff and although still not as powerful as its original, it still packs a punch. Halo 3 took on the best parts of H1 and H2, keeping the plot rich with excitement and entertainment while creating another award winning music soundtrack to supplement the most anticipated game of the century.

IGN, one of RTS's harshest critics, rated Halo 3 a 9.5, which says a lot about the actual game. You now have "support weapons" which are exceptionally large 2-handed weapons such as machine gun turrets and flamethrowers. The new human Mongoose is the 'little brother' of the warthog, with no actual weapons, it has devastatingly fast speeds. Bungie also reduced the limit of grenades to two, but incorporated two more styles of grenades, including a fire based grenade comparative to a molotov cocktail, and a new form of sticky grenade which sticks to walls as well as other life forms. I also would like to be the first to announce how much easier the flood can be killed. Comparative to Halo 1, where hitting did absolutely no damage to them, you can now ram them for a one-shot kill with whatever weapon you see fit. This makings hitting that much more enjoyable, knowing you can achieve actual results.

There are so many things left unspoken about the new RTS game which has everyone on edge. It transcends actual rating it treads the path of near perfection. Halo 3 remains the best RTS and possible even the best overall game created by man-kind.



Master Chief utilizing the "bubble shield."
Photo courtesy of www.tech2.com



LESSON ON DRESSIN' WHAT'S HOT AND MOST DEFINITELY NOT!

by Chelsea Kolter
Op-Ed Department

The first day of school is all about first impressions, and everyone knows we all pick out a "first day of school" outfit. It normally is one of the better outfits in your closet- cool, yet casual. You don't want to seem like you tried too hard, but you still want to look good; but why stop there? Why not try to look good every day? It's funny that we all try to look good the first day, maybe even week of school, and then it pretty much stops there. Hello- I see you every week after that! Just because you looked nice the first day of school, doesn't mean I'm going to ignore your TERRIBLE outfit today! Here is my short list of upcoming trends, and some things I have noticed in these few weeks of school we've had so far. Hopefully, they will help you update your look so you can look good every day of the week. And then maybe, maybe I can overlook some poor fashion choices.

WHAT'S HOT

- Longer hemlines
- Sleek and simple jeans- from skinny leg to wide, and everything in between.
- Flats- heels are still great, just no stilts please; a thicker "stacked" heel is so much better!
- Structure- whether big or small, think structured handbags for fall.
- Sequins and metallic galore! (But in small quantities please.) Accessorize with your bag or shoes, even a headband. A little embellishment goes a long way.
- Black and blue- and no I don't mean bruises. Pairing royal or navy blue with black is so classic and looks great!
- Supersize! Larger, comfy sweaters can still look sleek if paired on top of a slimmer bottom- try a bootcut or skinny jean. Do NOT pair with a wide leg jean; you'll just look frumpy and wider than you really are!
- Try experimenting with a heavy fabric pant, like tweed. It sometimes can be hard to pull off because of its bulkiness, but channel your inner queen and receive that well deserved royal treatment!
- Sweater dresses- two-in-one and what is better than that? This cute dress will give you warmth and compliments!
- Boots- a leather boot looks great under a pair of jeans or skirt, especially a riding boot. No longer are they just for jockeys!



See how the dress just hangs on the body? This style gives the illusion of a larger body than you really are, and who wants that? Plus, the peter pan collar and big buttons make this trapeze dress a little too costumey.

WHAT'S NOT

- Trapeze- although this look is cute and I encourage you to wear it if you like it, a narrower silhouette is in for fall. Instead, try a pencil skirt or fitted jacket.
- Platforms. A wedge is fun for summer, but don't try to pull them off as the weather gets cooler.
- Little purses. Ok, first of all, purses that don't fit anything but your cell phone and maybe some make up do not belong on your arm at school. Secondly, fake designer isn't going to make you look any cooler. There are plenty of adorable bags that don't scream "Look at me! I'm fake AND too small!"
- Never, ever buy a shirt with a belt already attached. This look was really in last year, but now, is thankfully diminishing. If you like belts, wear one that isn't "matchy-matchy" to the shirt, it makes you look more creative and the look more original.
- Your underwear is called UNDER wear for a reason. It's not something made for display!
- Reapplying your make up throughout the day is not cute. Be comfortable in your skin- without layers caked onto your face.



These flats are too cute! The brown leather paired with the white canvas presents itself with a sophistication, yet casual enough to pair under a great pair of jeans!

I hope this is a good start for a fresher outlook to your wardrobe. However, if you love something in the "NOT" list, go ahead and rock it! Be comfortable in your clothing, because that's ALWAYS in! Don't wear something if it's not flattering or just because it's in. Always remember, looking good makes you feel good and radiate confidence- and nothing is hotter than confidence!

Luke McCarthy illegally gave blood at age 10.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING: ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

by Alec Schidlovsky
Op-Ed Department



It's late on a Sunday night and first period tomorrow morning you have a huge chemistry test. You should be asleep but instead you're up studying, cramming for your test, trying to force the information into your head. The next day you feel as though you did well on your test but a few hours later, you can't remember anything that you studied the night before.

Cramming for a test is not a new technique. Students have been using this method of studying for ages, trying to force the information necessary into their brains to get a good grade. However, by doing so are students really learning? The answer is quite simple. Learning implies that you will acquire knowledge of something, or a skill in something, by studying, instruction, or experience and be able to use such at a later date. By students cramming for tests, they are not really learning but merely storing information in their short term memory, only to forget it when it is no longer needed after the test. So if students are only storing information for a short amount of time and not retaining that information, how much are they really learning in school, and is school really there for learning?

In the 1800's the State of Massachusetts passed the first compulsory education law. The goal was to make sure that the children of poor immigrants became "civilized" and learned obedience and restraint, so they would make good workers and wouldn't contribute to social upheaval. At that time, most public school funding came from wealthy business owners. In this way, those with wealth and economic interests were able to manipulate what students were studying in school so as to better prepare them to take jobs within their companies.

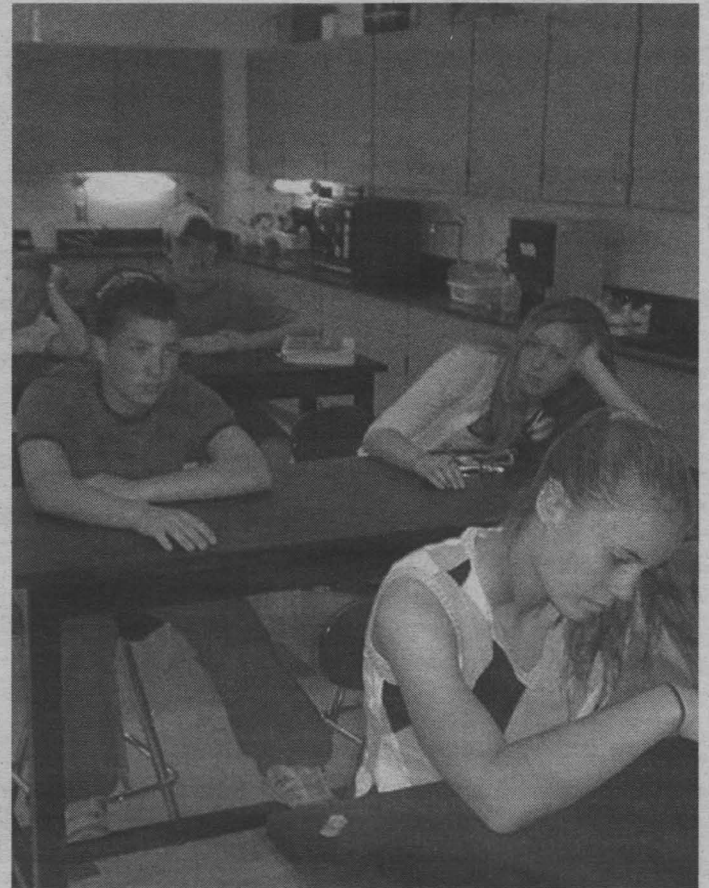
Today, some of the same goals still remain prominent components of school curriculum. Research done by the Applied Research Center found that one of the main answers for why we have public schools is that "Public schools give businesses something they need: a pre-trained workforce that has been taught important skills. These skills may include ability in subject matter like reading or math, but even more important to business is attitude. Public schools teach "skills" that business owners find very useful like competition, obedience and respect for authority."

These goals are increasingly prevalent in the class room. Teacher's courses are now designed more then ever to help you ease into society which today widely means going to college and earning a degree so as to succeed later in life. It seems today that teachers are still helping us to conform rather then help us learn. "Teachers today just don't care about expanding the mind," said Matt Valley, a senior at Oyster River High School. "All there really do is teaching you what you need to know to pass their test, and then reinforce it with tons of homework."

"When I was in high school, I was taught to conform to society and meet other people's expectations," said Laura Rogers, principal at Oyster River High School. "In order to expand my learning, I would read books. Today there are so many things to do other then read, such as watching TV. I feel that reading is an important part of education that students today are distracted from." Rogers also went on to say that schools seem to have taken on more roles that should be left to the household. "Schools today are now responsible to educate you in health, nutrition and safety. It should not be the school's job to tell you to eat a carrot stick or to wear a helmet skateboarding."

So, how do we fix school education so as to increase student learning and step away from conforming to society? Well, the first step is to create a new educational environment where students learn information by applying classroom work to real life situations. It's not good enough for students to just learn how to do trigonometry on paper and memorize a bunch of numbers. Instead, students should learn how to apply trigonometry to building a car, or a house. "When I go home every afternoon from school, I ask myself the same question," said Monika Beliveau, a senior at Oyster River High School. "Why did we learn what we did in class today? If I have to ask myself that question, then obviously I am not learning at all but just memorizing information that doesn't mean a whole lot to me."

In order to create this new learning environment, schools and teachers have to be willing to create new lesson plans, new expectations and new attitudes. It's hard to say whether or not teachers, students and administrators would be able to abandon the false comforts of compulsory education. I believe change is necessary. The question is not whether change can happen, it is whether we can escape from the values set over two hundred years ago. The times have changed, and so must our education system.



Students uninterested in the current lesson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

***Oyster River's Fall Production of
ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST
will be November 15, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.***

Nothing is known about Chris Hall. He is just a large person.

JUST A TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL



by Chelsea Kolter

Op-Ed Department

Walking into the cafeteria you see plenty of open seats, but do you dare sit down at the first available one you see? Do you really want to be seen sitting with the "nerds", "goths", or "preps"? Will they even LET you sit down with them? Cliques invade high school. The so called clique you're in pretty much describes who you are, who your friends are, and how you and them are labeled.

After three wonderful years of high school I have come to believe that Oyster River is not a typical high school. We do not have a football team, cheerleading squad that parades around in their uniforms and pom-poms, or, my favorite, cliques - the "popular" crowd, or the "band geeks"; and there's many more where that came from.

When I first started writing this article, I was incredibly opinionated that we don't have cliques and anyone who disagreed with me was, unfortunately, wrong. To get the inside scoop, I conducted my own experiment: sit at different lunch tables and talk to new people with whom I never had before. Would I feel awkward or unwelcome, or completely casual and comfortable? These were the questions I was set out to answer...

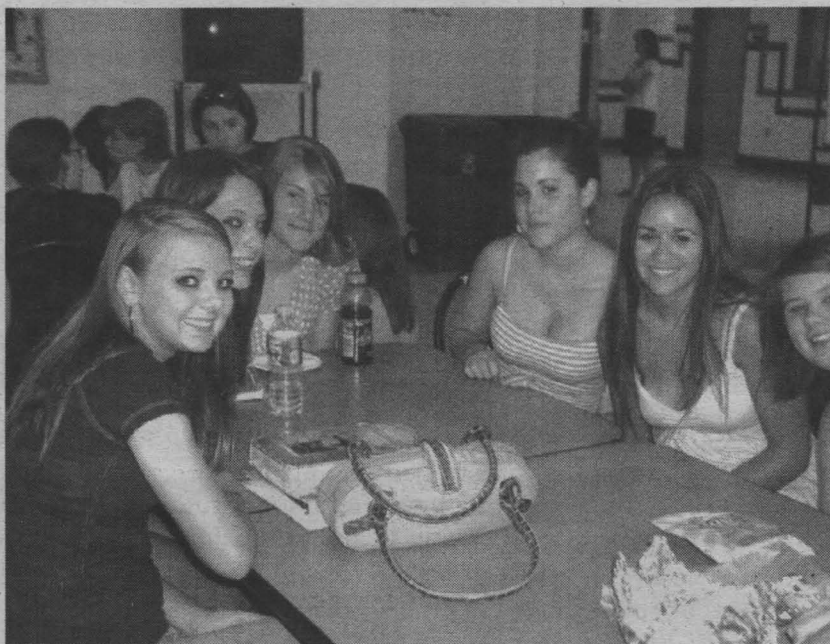
The experiment begins:

12:10 and my E period class bell had rung. Lunch time was here and to be honest I was a little nervous. I loved sitting and gossiping with my friends everyday at lunch and the thought of having to venture out and sit with someone new was nerve wrecking. This was a surprise to me, seeing as I'm actually very outgoing and love meeting new people. These feelings were my first hint that Oyster River does actually have cliques.

Walking into the cafeteria, I gathered all of my courage and sucked up any nervousness. The first table I sat down at was with a bunch of freshmen.

I thought this was a good idea because at least they couldn't really be mean to me; I was a senior and they were freshmen, easily a factor I took advantage of. At first it was most definitely awkward, but soon we were talking about classes and their first experiences at high school. I was giving them my advice, insight, and before I knew it, I felt very comfortable. It seemed as though we had known each other longer than the time when I just randomly sat down with them. However, I knew I had to challenge myself- talk to people in my own grade that I never had before.

I carried myself with a little more confidence this time, with my positive first experience under my belt. I walked up, radiating a smile and books under my arm. I can't imagine what they were thinking- this "too happy" girl they had never



A lovely, smiling group of junior girls sitting at their normal table during lunch.

really spoken too, walking up to them, asking if she could sit down. I was taken aback at how welcoming and kind they were. In my own mind, I kind of figured the reason I never talked to them before was because we wouldn't like each other, merely because we dressed different or thought differently. Yes, it was uncomfortable and I'm sure at first I rambled on and on to avoid any awkward silence. But, I didn't feel unwelcome or that they were disgusted with me. In fact,

it was refreshing to have an intellectual conversation with someone who had a different insight on life than mine or my friends.

12:50 and lunch was over. I had completed my experiment with flying colors. Not only did I succeed in my goal, but in a measly 40 minutes I had met new people and enjoyed myself doing so! I had all my information necessary for my article, but I felt like I had a little more research to do. I wanted to get other people's insight as well.

Laura Rogers, the principal at Oyster River for those of you who

don't know, has been a principal at other schools before here as well. When asked about Oyster River cliques, she looked at me with a little smirk on her face. "You know what drives me nuts? The students here exclude each other based on feelings and issues that happened in Middle School. I constantly hear the younger kids bringing up a situation that happened [close to] three years ago and that's the reason they don't like certain people. It's ridiculous! There definitely are cliques here, but they are much more subtle than at other schools." This was the overwhelming response from a majority of other students I talked to.

The first couple days of school, Pam Raiford's Sociology class had a very appropriate discussion - cliques. Is Oyster River surrounded by social groups with queen bees? Or are people just afraid of venturing out of their comfort zone and talking to someone new? Rachel Wyand, a senior and student of Raiford, believes our high school definitely has cliques, "It's a different type of clique- not the typical jocks, cheerleaders, etc. but there are definitely the groups of people who think they're better than everyone."

If you take a look at other high schools, you can point out the "popular girls" or the "bullies". If you take a look at Oyster River, our cliques are much less noticeable, but there definitely is a separation. My lesson learned: Oyster River is just like any other high school. I thought that I was going to a "one of a kind" school- one where we didn't exclude and everyone was invited. I guess I was wrong. Our cliques may not be like the ones portrayed in movies, but we are no different than other teenagers around the world.

Therefore, I have a dare for all of you. Try being friends with a variety of kids. You can learn a lot from people with whom you seemingly share little. Break the rules, meet new people, sit with another group at lunch, let loose and, most of all, have fun!

I didn't feel unwelcome or that they were disgusted with me. In fact, it was refreshing to have an intellectual conversation with someone who had a different insight on life than mine or my friends.



Thanks to the janitors, the seniors have their very own table to sit at - no other class allowed!

Alina Harris is actually Tor Harris in disguise.

by Hallie Gremlitz
Op-Ed Department



SCHEDULES, WHOOPEE!

Schedules. It's been talked about over and over and over again. Debated, written about, complained about, praised, bashed and everything in between. It's been block scheduling versus seven periods scheduling since my freshman year. Every week versus every other week. It seemed uncompromising. I would have flipped a coin years ago and called it quits, but administration chose the difficult way and chose to make a new and maybe improved (not to mention horrendously more complicated for the simple minded like myself) schedule.

We have been handed a new scheduling system at Oyster River with the intent to solve all the problems of the original schedule. The most predominant complaints from students in regards to the system installed three years ago, (every other week, all classes blocked over a span of two days) were that some classes such as math and PE didn't need a full 90 minutes, and senate forum was a huge waste of time. However the perks of having the built in lab period and the hour and a half long free periods were some of the most wildly popular benefits of the old system.

I had heard rumors that the whole idea of new scheduling was Mrs. Rogers's idea. I personally spoke with her, and found out that rumor was true. "The original model was my idea. We needed a compromise because in talking

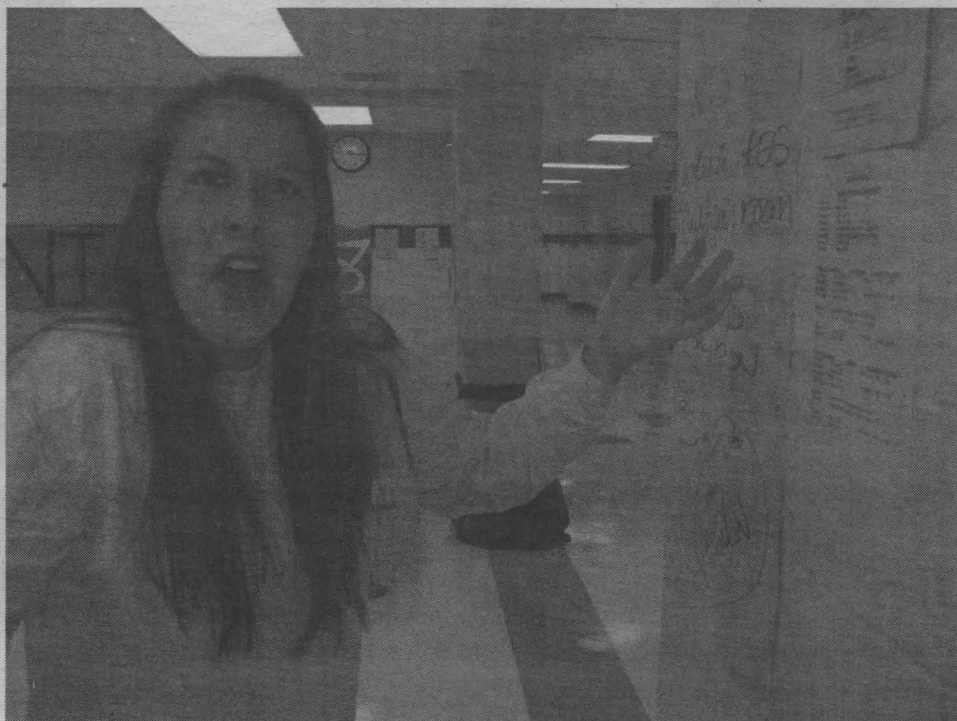
with kids last year, they told me they dreaded double block classes especially in classes like math." Although overall I think students approve of this scheduling method more so than the old way, I couldn't help but think about the countless students I had talked to this year about all of the conflicts they had with not being able to take all the classes they want to. "The schedule's more brittle, there's no denying that," Rogers stated. "The advanced classes problem has nothing to do with the schedule. The problem is when they're offered."

When I questioned Senior Lil Henry about the new system she immediately seemed very passionate about her standpoint. "Because of the new system I wasn't able to take anatomy, AP US history, clothing 2 or advanced topics in world cultures." That's a lot of classes she is missing out on her senior year. Although not being able to take all of those ridiculously hard classes saved our dear Ms. Henry from a ridiculously difficult senior year, she still should have been able to sign up for them and not have to worry about whether they would clash with her other required courses, especially in her final year here at Oyster River High School.

Senior Ashlyn Merrill had a similar problem. "I really wanted to switch out of one of my classes after school started. I'd like to change my schedule, but I can't because other things won't fit."

I am personally quite in favor of the new schedule. My Thursday schedule consists of six free periods and one Spanish class with Señor Hausmann. What more could a girl ask for in her senior year? Although I feel badly for the kids that haven't been able to take all of the classes they would like to, I can't say that I feel badly enough to want to change the schedule. I love the fact that if there are two double blocks in a row, we have a full 20 minutes between our classes. And the six free periods in one day doesn't feel too badly either.

Regardless of what students think, we have a new schedule at least for this year, or until someone comes up with a way to fix everything else that has gone wrong.



Jessica Miller, clearly outraged by the new scheduling issues!

UNH Homecoming Calendar!

Wear your University of New Hampshire colors this homecoming with the Campus Activities Board (CAB) as we celebrate Rockin' in Blue and White. Homecoming activities will take place on Friday October 12th and Saturday October 13th. All homecoming activities are open to the public and appropriate for all ages. Highlights include the Blue and White Parade, Homecoming Carnival, Pep Rally, Fireworks, and the MUB 50th Anniversary Celebration!

The Blue and White Parade will take place on Friday at 5:30pm. The parade will include floats, giveaways, military vehicles, bands, cheerleaders, dancers, and more. The parade will go down Main Street from Q-Lot to the Carnival at Memorial Field.

The Homecoming Carnival will take place directly following the parade at 6pm on Memorial Field. The Carnival includes face painting, caricatures, inflatables, giveaways, food, and much more! The rain location is in the Memorial Union Building.

The Pep Rally will take place on Memorial Field. Come cheer on our nationally ranked football team. The Pep Rally will include our UNH sports teams, performances, music, and more.

The Fireworks will be displayed at 8:30pm on Memorial Field. This event is sponsored by SCOPE.

On Saturday, the Memorial Union Building will kick off the 50th Anniversary festivities. At 10:30am Governor Lynch, President Huddleston, Army/Air Force ROTC, and other dignitaries will dedicate the Memorial Room. The MUB 50th Reception will take place from 4:00-6:00pm in the Granite State Room. All are welcomed to enjoy food, music, and more. The MUB 50th Festival will take place from 5:00-8:00pm. This event will include carnival events, giveaways, music, & more in the Union Court.

by Luke McCarthy

Op-Ed Department

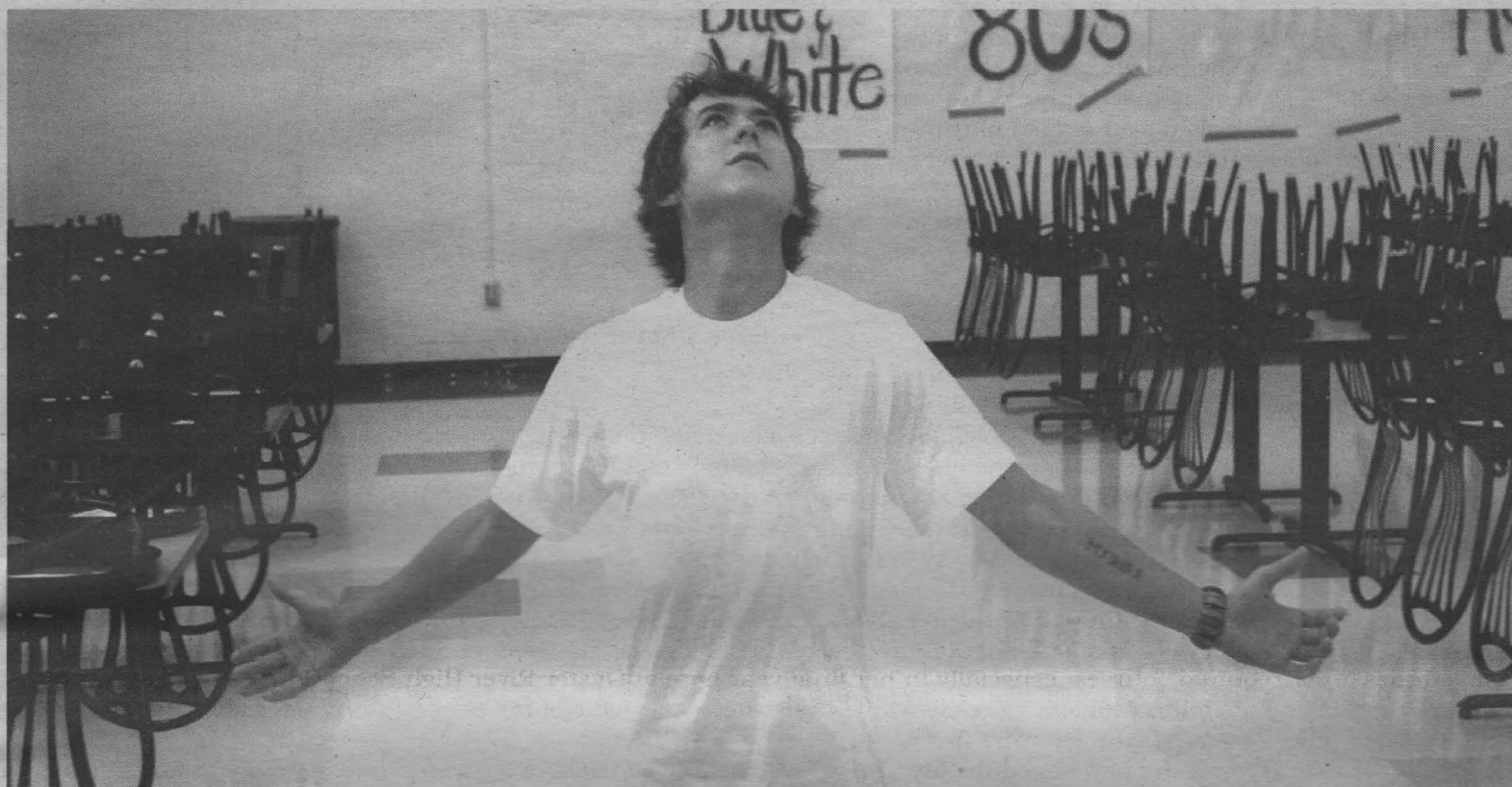


COP FEST 007

It is like a real game of cops and robbers with more cavity searches then a night in San Fran. Traveling to school in the morning has gone from a menial task to something out of a Grand Theft Auto game. Students and teachers alike have been relentlessly pulled over at "hotspots" such as the bottom of Coe Drive hill and that useless stop sign that you always roll by before passing the middle school.

Teachers Mary Beaton and MarjkeYatsevitch have both become victims. Beaton was confronted at the bottom of Coe Drive hill by an officer that asked "Why the excessive speeding?" She alleges that she was going 33 mph.

As Ryan Daly explains "I was bamboozled that a cop pulled me over at a useless stop sign. Needless to say, I seduced him into tomorrow." Officer Levesque explained to me that it was not the school but the residents on Coe Drive and the Durham Police Department who are responsible for the surge of officers around our school.



Thayer Harris: Victim of Cop Fest

Of course we must not forget about students who were hit hard with the mallet of justice towards the end of last year. We all must remember Thayer Harris's week suspension because of the alleged "firearm" that he possessed on school grounds. And when I say "firearm" I mean a florescent orange-tipped cap gun that he had buried under the passenger seat of his car. His "entire world shifted" he says after he got a call from his father asking him "What the Hell Happened!?! Every cop in the county is looking for you!"

Thayer's story started when a paranoid parent phoned in that a student in a green Subaru was carrying a gun around in his car after school. Harris and his friend Matt Valley were found in the Junior Lot about an hour after going to Dover and back by Officer Levesque. As Thayer says, "I was questioned at length by Mrs. Wotton and after she concluded that a week of suspension was penalty for my crime. I also wasn't allowed at Battle of the Bands which I had been practicing for months."

These incidents are symptoms of cop-fest '07 around our school and our administration being trigger-happy with suspensions. But these are just parts of a bigger picture. Whether it be the law enforcers, the residents on Coe Drive, or our own administration, people are trying to make our school safer using the wrong methods. Do you think kids like Thayer have now learned their lessons about school-safety from over the top punishments? I believe the contrary. When the administration swings its mallet of justice at a kid who doesn't deserve it, it only adds fuel to the animosity that that student feels towards "the man".

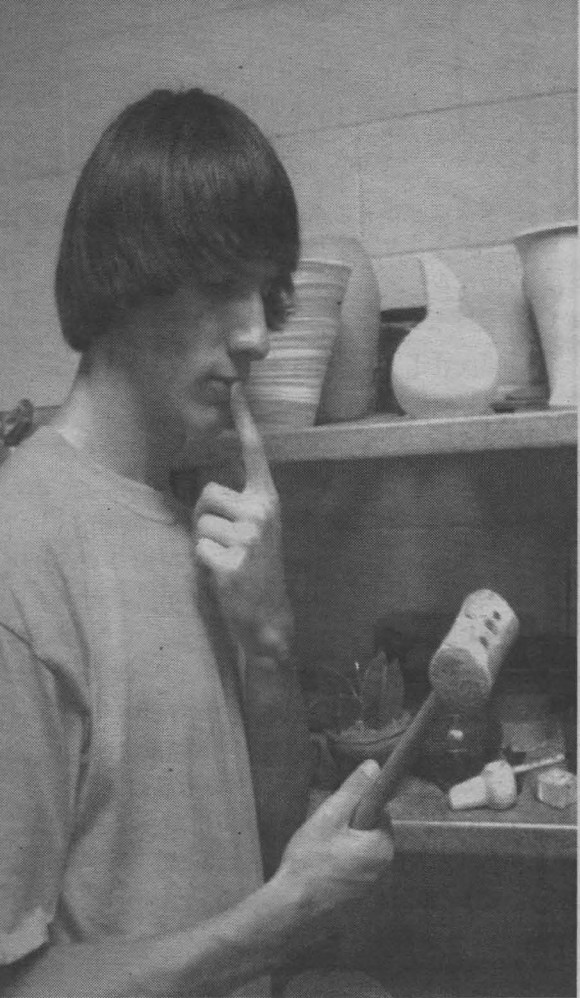
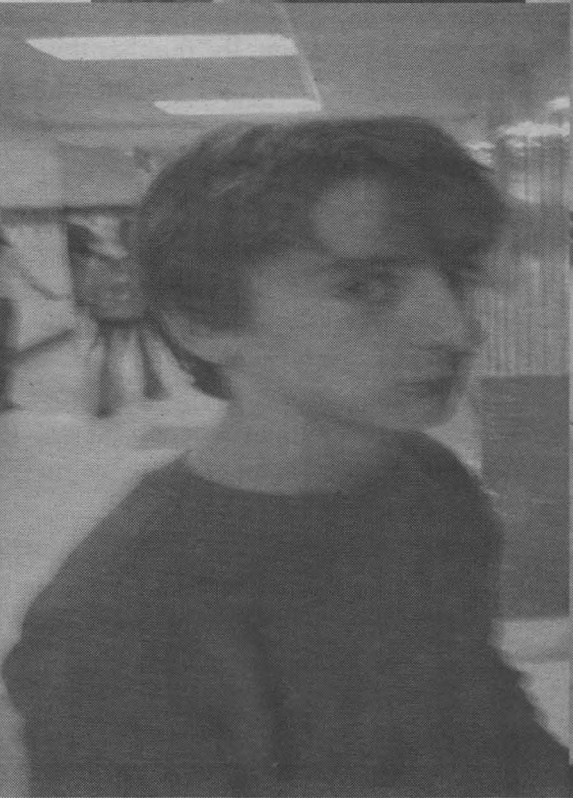
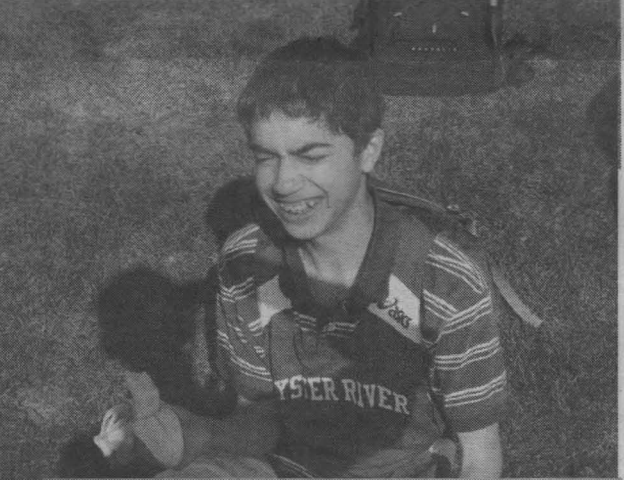
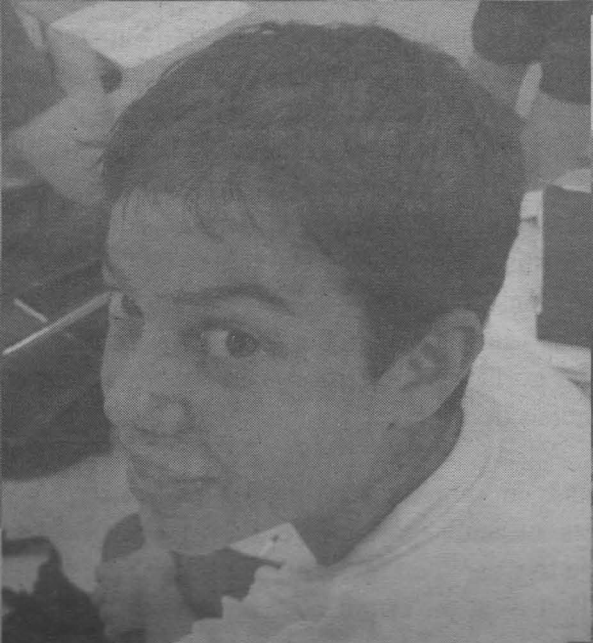
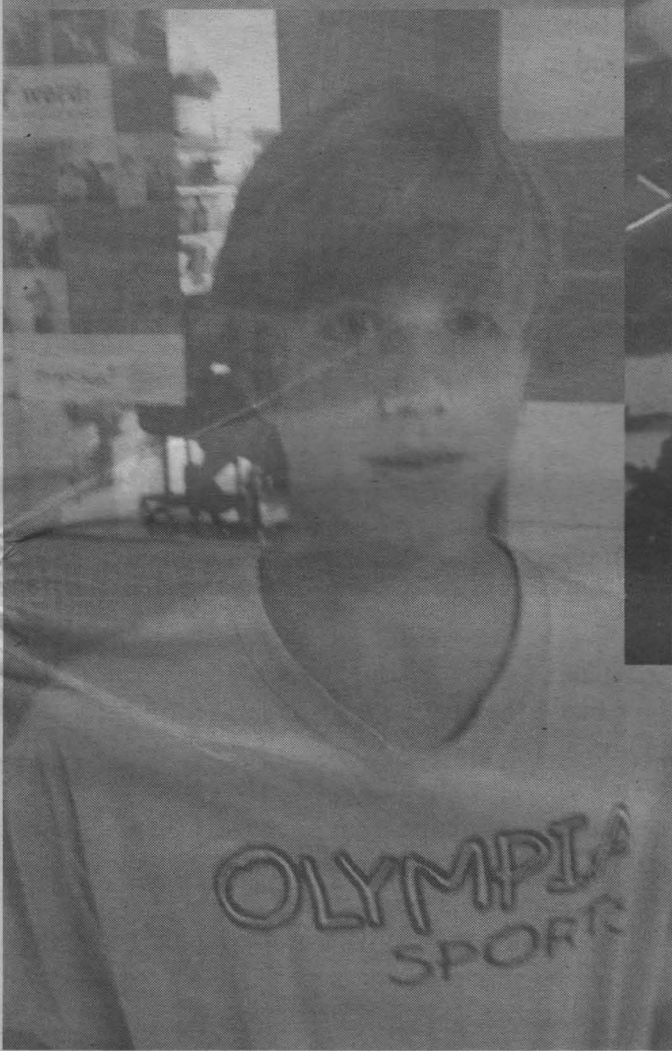
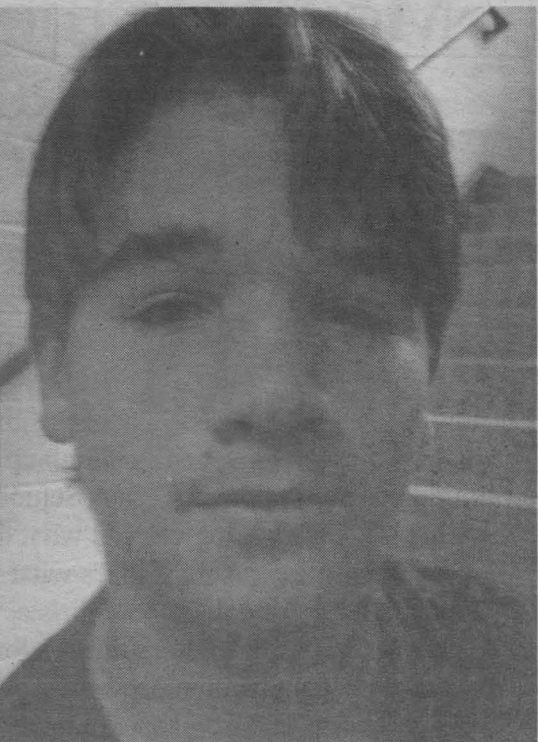
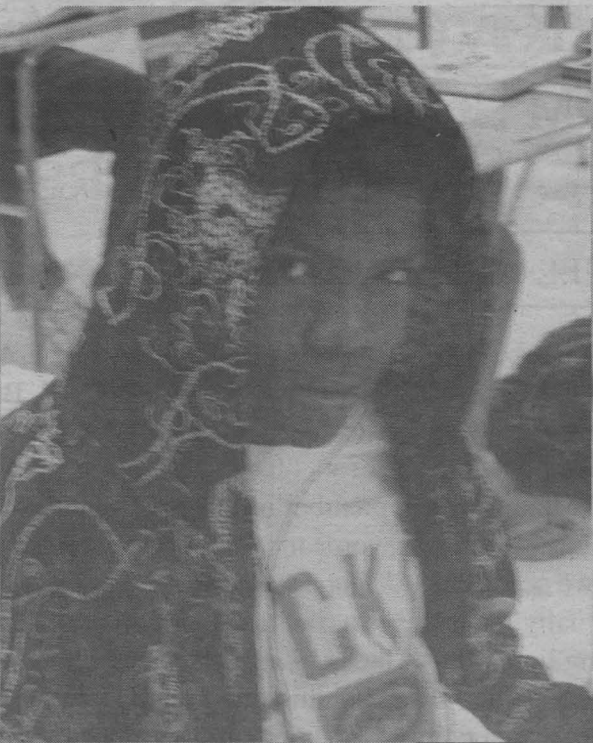
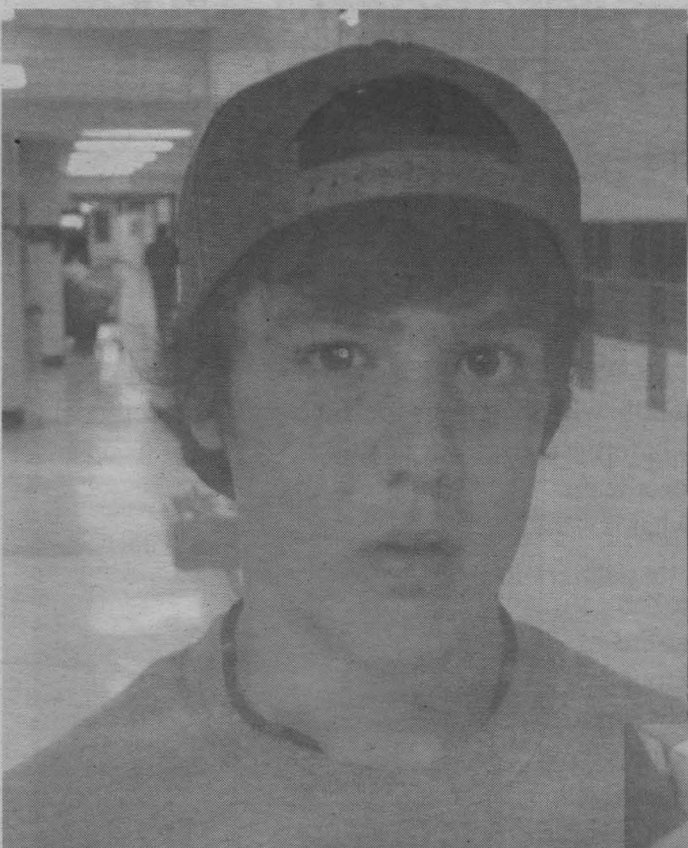
The same is with a police officer pulling over a student or teacher who doesn't push down on the brake hard enough while coasting down Coe Drive, which hosts a 20 mph speed limit. A regular human being doesn't pay that ticket with a smile on their face knowing that they have learned a valuable lesson. It only makes them disgruntled, which naturally has an impact on their in-school lives.

Oyster River and the community is shooting itself in the foot, so to speak. These actions that are being executed to make our school a safer place are only increasing the bitterness between the people who run our school and the people who attend our school. Well, at least they're trying... right?

"I was bamboozled that a cop pulled me over at a useless stop sign. Needless to say, I seduced him into tomorrow."

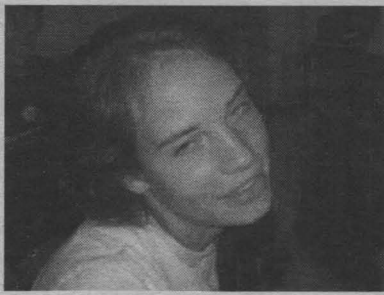
-- Ryan Daly





FROM SONGS TO SOCKS, PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SUPERSTITIONS

By ARIEL WACHOWIAK



"ACHA-LACHA-CHING, ACHA-LACHA-CHA, ACHA-LACHA-CHING-CHING-CHA-CHA-CHA, BOOMA-LACHA-SHISH-BOOM-BA, BOBCATS, BOBCATS, RA, RA, RA!" echoes the starting line up of the girls' varsity soccer team. They stand in a tight huddle with their arms locked around each other and jump up and down to the beat. "It's the last thing we do before we go to our positions. It pumps us up and intimidates our opponents," says Senior Alina Harris, a member of the girls' varsity soccer team.

This is somewhat logical, but what do these strange words mean? "I have no idea what it means. I'm not even sure if that's what we actually say," Harris comments.

No matter how foolish these girls actually look, this is a tradition that will not be broken. "Oyster River has been doing it for a long time," says Harris. The girls have gotten into this routine, and chant irrationally before every game. Breaking this ritual would be treasonous.

This chant is one of many examples of a superstition. A superstition is a belief that events are influenced by specific behaviors, without having any relationship whatsoever. Superstitions have been around for many decades. They were first created because the ability to communicate was so difficult. When new religious beliefs and rituals were created throughout the big cities, people in the country didn't know about these new changes and unfamiliar practices because of the lack of communication. They kept doing the "old" religious traditions. When the people who lived in the country moved into the cities, they seemed "weird" to the city people because they weren't participating in the new religious customs. For this reason, they were said to be "superstitious" because they hadn't broken away from old traditions.

As time goes by, more and more superstitions become part of our lives. Superstitions are commonly used among athletes before sporting events. Superstitions can either be used on an individual basis or as a team. Either way, "There's definitely a psychological base to it," says high school psychology teacher Lou Mroz.

Many people try to make their superstitions seem more reasonable and less ridiculous. Senior Julie Puffer, a member of the crew team, wears the same sports bra, underwear, and socks before every race. "It's because of fashion... we have to wear spandex, and the underwear isn't lined. My sports bra is gray and old, so I'm used to it. I wear the same socks because they have a navy blue stripe, which matches our outfits," explains Puffer.

Wearing the same outfit is a common superstition among athletes. "If we win a game, I'll wear the same socks the next game without washing them," says Senior Sarah Faulkingham, a member of the Oyster River varsity soccer team.

Even though this may seem somewhat gross, a lot of athletes refuse to wash their uniforms when they're on a winning streak. They believe that if they were to wash their uniforms, socks, or underwear, it would wash out their luck and break the winning streak.

Another common superstition is what song athletes listen to moments before they participate in their sport. "I always listen to 'Fool in the Rain' by Led Zeppelin right before I play," says Senior Derrick Kotlus, a member of the soccer team.

More often than not, athletes get dressed in the exact same way before playing. "I put my gear on in the same order every time," says Junior Tommy Lynch, who is also a member of the soccer team. "I put my socks on before putting on my shin guards. I have to make sure that the stitches are the right way, and that the sock isn't inside out, which is sometimes hard to tell. My right sock goes on before my left sock. I pull on my socks so that they're scrunched up, and then I slip my shin guards on in the shin guard holders, right leg before left leg. Then, I pull up my socks and put my shoes on," explains Lynch as he recounts specifically about how he gets dressed. Although this has become a routine for Lynch and may seem like it is thoughtless, it is a superstition.

For whatever reason, the number thirteen is a number that people are superstitious about, and has stirred up many different emotions. It is often seen as "unlucky" for a variety of different reasons. One irrational explanation is that when a group of thirteen objects are divided into two, three, four, or six groups, there is always one extra object, which is "unlucky". Another possible explanation is that a person can count from one to twelve with ten fingers and two feet. Thirteen is the first number that cannot be counted in such a way, so it is unknown and unlucky.

Whatever the reason is for fearing the number thirteen, people will skip over the number thirteen occasionally. It is often skipped over in horse barns that harbor racing horses, or hotels won't have a thirteenth room because they feel as though this room will bring bad fortune.

Athletes tend to go against the grain on this superstition, and many successful athletes have worn the number thirteen in their professional careers. For example, Alex Rodriguez, a talented baseball player, wore the number thirteen throughout his career. Dan Marino, a professional football player, wore the number thirteen when he played in the NFL.

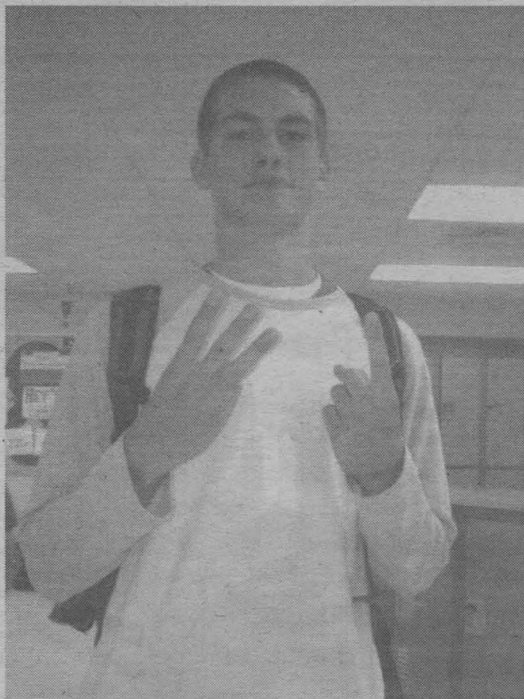
"Number thirteen has always been my lucky number," says Senior Neal Lofgren, who is a member of the varsity volleyball team. "It's everywhere. Everything equals thirteen... it rules my world!" jokes Lofgren. He clearly does not feel as though a number can be unlucky.

Although some superstitions are more outrageous than others, they are a lot more common than people realize. Oyster River athletes fall into the category of people who are "superstitious" even if they deny just how superstitious they really are. Whether or not you realize it, you have your own superstitions as well.

Ariel was considered to be Michelangelo's voiceover in Ninja Turtles but decided to play hockey instead...



Julie Puffer shows off her lucky bra and socks



Neal Lofgren expresses his love for the number 13



RIVALRIES: HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?

By MADDY STARBRANCH

It seemed like a normal basketball game against Pelham, that day in 2005. But when fans started arguing tensions arose. An '06 senior, who we won't name (from England), ripped down Pelham's flag, stomped on it, and yelled obscenities. Eye witness accounts say all heck broke loose; Oyster River fans bought eggs at half time... Oyster River fans threw eggs at the Pelham fans... Oyster River fans found themselves speaking to the police...

"I saw some kid running down the middle school hill with a baseball bat," recalls Senior Trevor Maynard. "Kids were running all up and down the streets." It was chaos; chaos that Oyster River initiated without much help from Pelham. Oyster River created a rivalry irreparably negative, even if Pelham deserved it.

Every athlete or avid fan knows what it is like to have a rival. Whether it is the team that knocked them out of the finals, or the runner that beats them by milliseconds, our rivals are those people and teams that we would love to beat. Sometimes they're a good match, or just someone who infuriates us, but almost anyone could name that school, or that team, or that person that they'd love to see lose. And while rivalries are a healthy and encouraging aspect of any sport, when does it stop being a good thing?

Despite our sordid rivalry past, Athletic Director Don Maynard thinks Oyster River is maintaining healthy rivalries this year. "There are some kids and adults who don't know how to keep a rivalry positive," he admits. Despite this, Oyster River has been on the upswing. For example, adds Maynard, "So far the rivalry between us and Coe Brown has been positive."

But what separates a positive rivalry from a negative one? "Putting an Oyster River Shirt on Coe Brown's bear is an example of a positive rivalry, spray painting is different," adds Maynard. While Oyster River has been involved in rivalries where both sides crossed the line, we have maintained a pretty positive exterior recently. "I just hope it stays positive so we'll get more people and students at games," says Maynard.

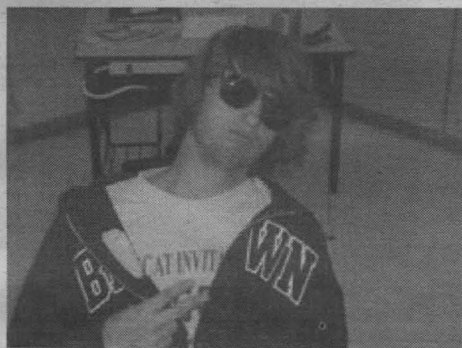
Rivals can differ from sport to sport; according to Senior Dragos Maftei, who plays for the boys' varsity soccer team. He considers Hanover their biggest rival. For the past two years, Oyster River has lost to Hanover in the semi-finals. "I'd want to beat them really hard, more than any other team," says Maftei. "But it's not like we would slash their tires or send someone over to Hanover before a game to break their knees or something. I guess I would consider the rivalry positive."

When a rivalry becomes negative and spiteful, it can make the playing much less enjoyable. Senior Field Hockey Captain Ariel Wachowiak doesn't enjoy playing Saint Thomas anymore. "Poor sportsmanship and physical aggression compound the unpleasantness of playing them," says Wachowiak, and many varsity players would agree.

Whether or not negativity and poor sportsmanship is initiated by Oyster River, we should start being the ones to stop it. There's no excuse for poor sportsmanship, and no matter who we play or what they do, we shouldn't let them ruin the game for us. A good match can be a lot of fun to play in or watch, and no one should be able to take that away from Oyster River anymore.

"I saw some kid running down the middle school hill with a baseball bat...Kids were running all up and down the streets."

- Senior Trevor Maynard



By MAX HARRIS

THE REPUTATION OF SKATEBOARDERS

"I've been told to 'skateboard the hell out of here.' They don't get it. It's not about messing up curbs or benches; it's about flipping around a piece of wood with your feet," says Senior Mark Nicholson, undoubtedly the most prominent of the many skateboarders here at Oyster River High School. His sentiments are shared by many. "It's ridiculous in any other context," says Leah Bayer, another senior. "What other sport has actually been made illegal?"

On any given day during the fall and spring at Oyster River, you can spot at least a few people walking with skateboards. It seems that they are always getting the eye from some sort of authority figure, as their reputation is well known. But is the reputation justified? "Skaters are usually slackers," says a nameless freshman. "They tend to be the ones in the most trouble, either in school or out of it."

"I think that it's great that kids have something that they love and can improve at, I just wish they wouldn't do it on school grounds," says assistant principal Sara Wotton. Many of the custodians have also complained of people skateboarding inside the school. However, many skaters feel that their reputation is undeserved.

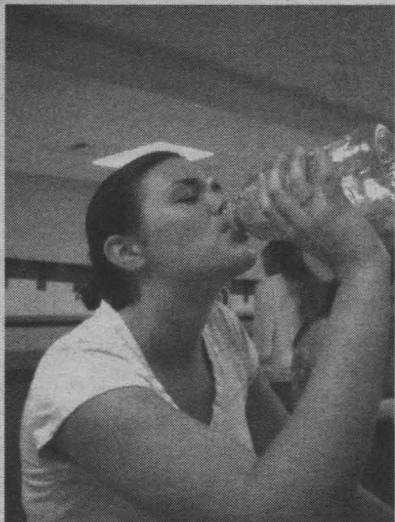
The aforementioned Nicholson, a sponsored and by all means avid skateboarder, is also taking AP Calculus this year at Oyster River. Nicholson is not an anomaly. Looking around the higher level classes, and even the class ranks, you are sure to find a few skateboarders in the mix. "Being a skater doesn't mean any more than being a musician or a soccer player, and many people don't recognize that," says another nameless freshman.

So what is skateboarding at Oyster River? For many skaters, it is a way to get outside and challenge themselves to get better. Whether longboarding, or the more common 'short' skateboards, the adrenaline junkies need their fix of athletics as much as soccer star Dragos Maftei, or runner Ricky Hoyt.

Max can unicycle and throw a Frisbee with both his feet...at the same time.

THIRSTY? WATER OR GATORADE?

By REEGAN CARBONE



Julie Puffer drinking Gatorade throughout the day

The ball is coming your way. Your heart starts racing, and you can't catch your breath. Your teammate calls your name out and sends the ball flying over your head, as your feet start pounding the ground faster and faster. Your legs feel as if independent from your body, aching with pain from playing almost a full sixty minutes. Your team is down by one, and if you score now, you'd tie it to go into overtime. One step to the side and you've beat the defense, taking three more steps closer to your destination. You wind up, inhaling deep, hoping that somehow you find the strength in you to take this final shot. You hit the ball and fall to the ground; exhaustion taking over you as you lay there watching it soar up, up, up... and over the net. A rush of cold flows over you and you shudder, closing your eyes as your hand hits the ground with frustration.

Well, at least you have something to look forward to: Gatorade, in your favorite flavor. Just the thing you need to solve the problem of thirst that has overcome you. The question is though, is Gatorade the best thing for you to drink or is water better?

According to the Gatorade website, their product is meant to rehydrate, replenish, and refuel. It is meant to replace what athletes lose while sweating, gives back electrolytes to help replace the contents of sweat, and contains carbohydrates to energize working muscles. The taste is designed to encourage the athlete to drink more to hydrate the body, and the water, carbohydrates, and electrolytes absorb into the bloodstream.

Gatorade was first created in 1965 by University of Florida doctors to help the football team perform. Now, over forty years later, there is a Gatorade Sports Science Institute, where the world renowned sports science center is dedicated to finding more ways to contribute to the product and to athletes. It was originally called "Cade's Cola", named after one of the university's physician Robert Cade, but the name was changed for the football team, the Florida Gators.

Some people refuse to drink Gatorade, however, because they feel that it is of equal or lesser value than water is to the body. Hundreds of studies have been done, as well as countless experiments, to compare one to another. There have been a variety of outcomes of all, never giving a clear answer. Members of the Oyster River High School community had no clear or dominant preference. Don Maynard, the Athletic Director at ORHS, encouraged that "water is just as good as Gatorade, but Gatorade supplies the vitamins that people need, especially on hot days." Imion Powell, a Physical Education teacher, disagreed with his co-worker. "Nothing is better for you than water. The only thing about Gatorade that is useful is that it can help with cramps during sports, but that is only if it gets into your system in enough time."

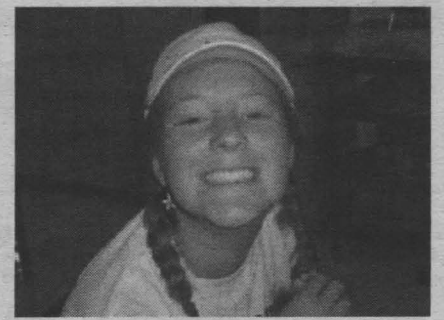
According to the Gatorade website, in order for the product to work efficiently, the athlete is to drink 17-20 ounces one or more hours before exercise and 7-10 ounces immediately before initiating activity. After the work out, if there is any substantial weight loss, the athlete is then supposed to drink 20-24 ounces per pound that was lost. Dehydration can be very serious, because it impairs the athlete's performance when the body fluid level is under only 98% of its normal condition. The harder the athlete works, the more he/she sweats, and the fluid that is lost then needs to be replenished. It is known that an athlete that is more fit sweats more than the athlete that is out of shape. Also, if the person is acclimated to playing in the heat, they will sweat before another player that is not used to the change in temperature.

Signs of dehydration include: noticeable thirst, decreased performance, nausea, muscle cramps, difficulty paying attention, lightheadedness, dizziness, weakness, and headache. Sweating reduces the blood volume and sodium concentration level in the blood, and Gatorade gives that back. However, eating any salted food with a water or beverage will supply the body as efficiently as sports drinks do, according to www.thefinalsprint.com. More than 80% of the energy that supplies the muscles in the body is lost due to heat, leaving less than 20% to drive your muscles. The heat that is created internally is pumped through the blood to the epidermis, the superficial layer of skin, where the heat is lost to the atmosphere. The Gatorade Sports Science Institute argues that Gatorade helps in this process. The product contains a small amount of sodium, that makes the athlete drink more, and helps maintain a sodium balance in the blood. Water, however, does not have sodium, but instead it stimulates the kidneys without replacing the needed electrolytes. The carbohydrates in the Gatorade also contribute to the working muscles, providing the energy water cannot.

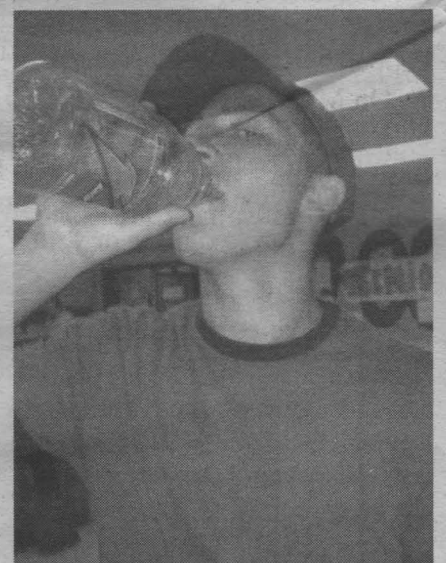
Gatorade, on this website, isn't as resourceful as it appears. Gatorade is only useful after 90 minutes of continuous exercise, because it is only at that time and after that the blood sugars and electrolytes are depleted enough to replace them. If the exercise is an hour and a half or longer, the athlete needs to replenish during and after the work out, but is it better to drink water 20-30 minutes before training. Sipping water throughout the session is ideal when following up with one or two tall glasses of water when finished.

Students of Oyster River, like many of the studies and experiments, have mixed ideas about Gatorade. Julie Puffer, a senior athlete on the club crew team and ski team, believes that Gatorade is only good after the sporting event, and only drinks it to replenish the things she lost during activity. "You just take a sip, and you're happy again!" Her fellow classmate, Eli Dippold, a member of the boys' varsity soccer team, agrees with her, because he finds that the product is too sugary to drink until afterwards when thirst takes over. Mike Feld, the Athletic Trainer at the high school, believes that Gatorade is very good for you also; giving you back the nutrients that were lost to sweat and hard work, but that water is also good for the body.

Even after all of the research, there is still no definite answer. Water may or may not be better for the athlete's body than Gatorade, but now we know exactly what is in the popular sports drink, and what it can contribute to the exercise. Whether you decide to drink it over water or not, the choice is up to you!



Eli Dippold replenishing his electrolytes before a big game



Reegan has a tattoo on her left foot that says "Tyler Guarino" and "imagine"...at the same time.

HELMETS, A NECESSARY HASSLE?

By MADDY STARBRANCH

Mouth of the River **SPORTS** October 11, 2007

"If you're going down a hill and you fall... I guess a helmet would do something, but I never fall." says Sophomore Brendan Kotlus

Any sunny day in Durham, the sidewalks and parking lots are teeming with teenaged skaters. Most of them are worried about perfecting their 360 flip, getting where they are going on time, or not skinning their knees. One thing that's not on their minds, or their heads, is a helmet. A surprising number of skaters don't wear helmets, and many don't even own them. We've all heard our parents tell us we need them when we're biking, skating, or doing

anything fun with wheels, but what's the big deal? Are helmets really even necessary? How many people ever need one?

Officer Levesque estimates that less than 10% of skaters wear helmets. "People on bikes are better about it, because there's a law. There isn't a helmet law for skateboarders, but it would be a good idea," he says, adding, "In an accident, I would think someone wearing a helmet would have a better chance; they're designed to take impact."

That may seem obvious to some, but Brendan Kotlus, an avid skater who is often seen skating downtown or near the school, says he never wears a helmet, and doesn't even own one. Kotlus is not alone; 72% of young teens that skateboard do not wear helmets. But is there any adverse effect? According to www.thinkfirst.org there is; people not wearing helmets are 14 times more likely to be involved in a fatal accident, and a helmet could prevent an injury every four minutes.

So why don't kids wear helmets? "If I fall my head isn't gonna matter," Kotlus said. "If you're going down a hill and you fall... I guess a helmet would do something, but I never fall."

Senior Max Harris often skateboards without a helmet. "I know I should, but I like the wind through my hair and it's kind of a hassle." Interestingly, Harris continues not to wear one after receiving a minor head injury while skating. When he was skating to school, Max held onto Senior Dragos Maftai's car, and was being pulled along the road. "I wasn't paying attention and my board got caught under the wheel of the car. We were going about 20 miles an hour and I went straight down head first into the pavement and skidded."

It may seem surprising that despite his head injury, Harris doesn't wear a helmet, but at least he realizes he should. "My parents tell me to," he adds, "But I don't..."

Senior Andy Stark skateboards regularly, but also doesn't wear a helmet. He says his parents bug him about it, but not too much. He said that after Oliver Slezak died, he didn't become more worried about wearing his helmet. "That was an accident and accidents happen."

On May 26th, 2007, Oyster River student Oliver Slezak was skateboarding near the high school with his friends, as he often did. Around 6:40 pm, Oliver's head was hit by the mirror of a passing bus. On May 30th, 2007 Oliver succumbed to his injury at Boston Children's Hospital. Oliver wasn't wearing a helmet.

Everyone remembers the day that Oliver died. Words cannot describe the heartbreak and pain in the hallways that day, and even those who did not know him personally felt the great resonance of his death. The last thing anyone wants is to see another person die, and small precautions like helmets could prevent it.

And while we have not experienced it at Oyster River, significant brain damage caused by head trauma can be devastating. According to Wikipedia, the victim may become irreversibly different, possibly suffering from delusions, mental handicap, speech and movement problems.

The problem is that as teenagers, we are all guilty of thinking we are invincible. No matter what facts lay before us, we are sure it would never happen to us. While we may be smart and responsible, we cannot predict what may happen when we hit a bump, or round a corner. But more importantly, someone else could make a poor decision that affects us. "When you're skateboarding, you think you're in control," says Officer Levesque. "You probably are, but you can't count on what someone else is gonna do."

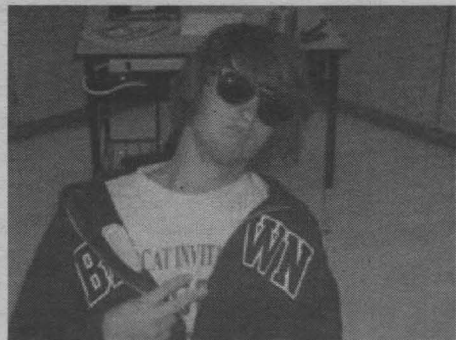
Thinking about getting that helmet? Helmets cost fifteen to fifty dollars, and can be found at Wal-Mart, Toys R' Us, Dick's Sporting Goods and other sports stores. When purchasing a helmet, look for one that is approved by the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing and Materials, or the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. Straps should be secure and the helmet should not move around on your head.



Mark Nicholson showing some skate moves

What are *your* thoughts about this article?
Write a letter to the editor and your ideas just
might be in the next newspaper!

Maddy Starbranch is random and more random...at the same time



INJURY OF THE MONTH: AUGUST

By MAX HARRIS

Senior Monika Beliveau: Torn ACL

So What Happened?

Well, one day, at the jamboree, I was playing soccer; defense, specifically. I was running, and I went to do a quick turn. Probably... I don't remember why. My body went one way and my right knee went the opposite way. There was a sound resembling a "Pop." I fell down dramatically and grabbed my knee in pain. Then Mike the Hero, I mean, Mike the Trainer came down from the heavens (his Gator), and helped me walk off of the field. And that was pretty much the end of it.

What's next?

I will be getting surgery on September 28th, so unfortunately I will miss the Homecoming Dance.

On a scale of 1-10, how much did it hurt?

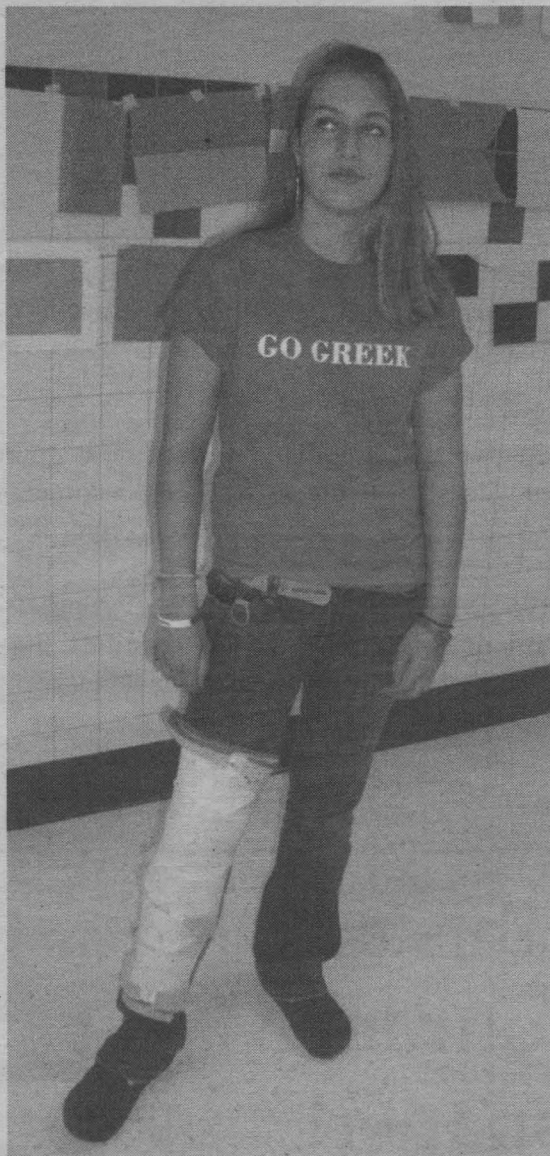
I'd give it a 6.5. It really wasn't that painful, I was more scared that my knee had just popped.

On the Max Scale (note: The Max Scale is a grade given to the injury by me. It is based upon several factors, namely recovery, originality, and creativity)

Monika, I would give your injury a B-. Although a torn ACL scores low for originality and creativity, though it does have long lasting effects. The fact that you need surgery to repair your ACL, and will miss the Homecoming Dance as a result, definitely helped your recovery grade because it will take a while until you are able to be back in the game. Good luck with surgery, and have a quick recovery.



INJURY OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER



Junior Gabby Brodeur: 14 Stitches on Knee

What Happened?

We had just come back from running in the rain, and Sarah, Marie and I decided to slide down the hill behind the school. I was sliding through a puddle and a piece of glass cut my knee from here (points to kneecap) to here (about 4 inches lower) down to the bone. Steven had to carry me to the nurse's office. She was just leaving so she had to come back. She put a bandage on it and we went to the ER.

What's Next?

I think I am getting my stitches out next Tuesday (9/25) and I can't run for a while.

On a scale of 1-10, how much did it hurt?

9, it bled a lot and there was blood all over the hallway and stuff. When we got to the ER there was blood all over both of my legs.

On the Max Scale:

Gabby, your injury got an A-. Although your recovery was fairly quick, the initial injury was very original, and the heavy bleeding helped your creativity grade. Also, the fact that you re-opened your wound while doing the obstacle course on field day will add to the overall recovery time. Good luck with the stitches, and I hope you will be able to run again soon.

Ariel's parents made her golf righty because lefty clubs are too expensive.

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Girls Varsity Soccer @Coe-Brown W 3-2 Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Coe- Brown W 4-0	30 Coed Varsity Golf Match Boys Won Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Timberlane L 2-3	31 Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ Con-Val W 4-3 Girls Varsity Soccer @ Con-Val W 4-1 Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Con-Val W 4-0	

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4 Coed Varsity Golf Match Won Boys Varsity Soccer @ Saint Thomas L 2-1 Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Saint Thomas W 1-0 Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Salem L 3-0	5 Girls Varsity Field Hockey vs. Saint Thomas L 1-0 Girls Varsity Volleyball vs. Winnisquam W 3-1 Boys Varsity Volleyball @ Mascenic W 3-0	6 Coed Varsity Golf Match Won	7 Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ John Stark W 9-0	1 8
9	10 Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Portsmouth L 3-2	11 Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ Portsmouth L 3-1 Boys Varsity Volleyball @ Londonderry L 3-1	12 Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Portsmouth W 3-2 Boys Varsity Soccer @ Portsmouth W 5-0 Girls Varsity Volleyball vs. Laconia W 3-0	13 Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ Kingswood W 1-0 Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Souhegan L 3-0	14 Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Gilford L 3-1	15 Coed Varsity Cross Country Meet Bobcat Invitational Boys: 3 rd Girls: 3 rd Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Mascenic W 3-2 Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Hanover T 0-0 Girls Varsity Field Hockey vs. Hanover L 2-1
16	17 Girls Varsity Volleyball vs. St Thomas L 3-0	18 Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Pinkerton L 3-2	19 Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Coe- Brown W 4-0 Boys Varsity Soccer @ Coe- Brown W 3-0	20 Coed Varsity Golf Match Won	21 Coed Varsity Golf Match Won Girls Varsity Field Hockey @ Souhegan L 4-3 Boys Varsity	22 Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Hanover W 2-1 22 Coed Varsity Cross Country Meet Manchester Invitational

Mouth of the River

SPORTS October 11, 2007



Can't Touch This.